

# Union Jack is lowered in Rhodesia for the last time

Most of the British Empire in Africa and the last  
continent came to an end at midnight when  
Rhodesia became independent. In a broadcast to the new  
night, Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister,

called on his countrymen to look to the future. He urged  
them to follow the example of the newly integrated  
Rhodesian security forces and guerrilla armies who heralded  
a new era of national unity.

## Independence Day ends an era for Britain and Africa

Salisbury  
over Salisbury  
also set on the  
the British  
Africa. Shortly  
with the sound  
piercing the  
the Prince of  
Somerset, the  
Other British  
ly watched the  
ing lowered for  
the grounds of  
use.  
not only  
end of an era  
also for the  
nt. There are  
colonies left in  
from Namibia  
colony in the  
the world. The  
process, begun  
has now come  
ing that period  
ons over which  
once flew have  
reignity.  
which officially

became independent at mid-  
night, will become the fifth  
member of the Organisation of  
African Unity. It has also be-  
come the forty-third member of  
the Commonwealth.

In an address broadcast to  
the nation this evening, Mr  
Robert Mugabe, the Prime  
Minister, said that April 18,  
Independence Day, was "the  
birthday of great Zimbabwe,  
the birthday of its nation.  
Tomorrow, we shall cease to be  
men and women of the past and  
become men and women of the  
future. It's tomorrow then, and  
not yesterday, which bears our  
destiny."

Hours after the Union Jack  
was lowered in Government  
House the new red, black, green  
and gold flag of Zimbabwe was  
due to be raised at a midnight  
ceremony at the Rufaro stadium  
in the Harare black township of  
Salisbury marking the birth of  
the new nation. Before that, the  
heads of delegations represent-  
ing almost 100 nations as well  
as a number of international

organisations were to attend an  
independence banquet.

The independence ceremony  
was similar to many which had  
been witnessed in other parts  
of Africa. Apart from the raising  
and lowering of flags, an  
independence flame was to be  
lit which will be carried by  
runners to the Salisbury Kopje  
(hill) tomorrow in time for a  
service for fallen heroes.

Musical accompaniment was  
provided by a Scottish pipe  
band, Harare dancers, a choir  
made up of Zulu guerrillas as  
well as Mr Bob Marley, the  
Jamaican reggae singer.

Second, was the presence of  
a joint guard of honour com-  
prising the Rhodesian security  
forces and elements from the  
Zanu and Zipra guerrilla  
armies. Four months ago these  
men were killing one another.

Tonight they symbolized the  
start that has been made on  
forging a new national army.

In his broadcast, Mr Mugabe  
called on all Zimbabweans to  
follow the example of the inte-  
grated forces. By marching in  
step together, he said, they  
heralded a new era of national  
unity and togetherness.

Representatives from almost  
100 nations were attending the  
independence celebrations—a  
reflection of the wide inter-  
national support that has been  
accorded to Mr Mugabe's  
Government. They included  
four heads of state, six heads  
of government, 23 foreign  
ministers, and a host of other  
senior ministers.

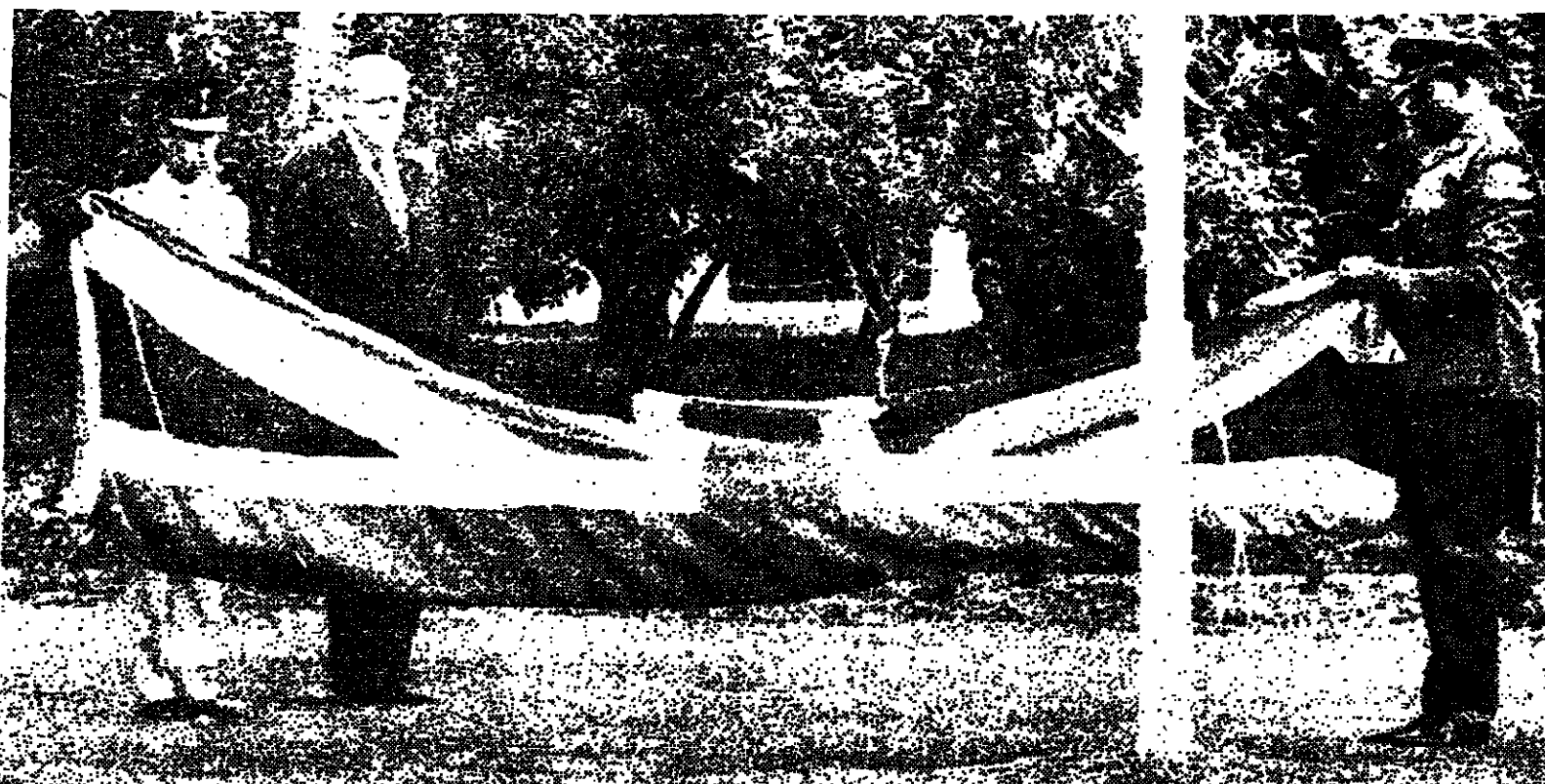
In messages from the Queen,  
the British Prime Minister, and

Mr Mugabe, delivered at to-  
night's ceremony, emphasis was  
placed on the need to look to  
the future and not to the past  
and also for close ties between  
Zimbabwe and Britain.

In his broadcast, which like  
previous broadcasts was notable  
for its moderation and spirit of  
reconciliation, Mr Mugabe  
called on all Zimbabweans to  
adapt themselves intellectually  
and spiritually to the reality of  
the political change that had  
taken place and to relate to  
each other as brothers. "The  
wrongs of the past must now  
stand forgiven and forgotten",

he said. "Oppression by blacks  
should not be allowed to  
replace oppression by whites."  
Significantly, he called on his  
black supporters to show  
patience and allow the govern-  
ment time to bring in mean-  
ingful change. It would take  
the government time to organize  
the programmes that will  
effectively yield that change.

Toughest task, page 16  
Leading article, page 17



Jack comes down for the last time at Government House, Salisbury, as the Prince of Wales and Lord Soames stand in attention.

## Growth of money supply near target

By John Whitmore

Encouraging March money  
supply figures and the selling  
out of the latest gilt-edged  
stock offer should encourage  
the Government as it struggles  
to control inflation.

Although the Government  
still faces disquiet on wages  
and prices, there are growing  
signs that it is winning its  
battle to control the growth of  
the money supply.

In the March banking month  
sterling M3, the broad-based  
measure of money growth, rose  
by just 0.4 per cent. This still  
leaves the rate of growth since  
last June slightly above the  
7.1 per cent a year growth tar-  
get, but it is a further improve-  
ment on previous figures.

If some allowance is made  
for the seasonal component in  
the surrender or certificates of  
tax deposits, then the rate of  
growth since last June drops  
just inside the target range.

With optimism that the April  
money supply figures will con-  
tinue this improving trend,  
markets are starting to build up  
their hopes of a small reduction  
in the Bank of England's  
minimum lending rate by early  
summer.

But at least three conditions  
will have to be met before the  
Government is likely to counte-  
nance an officially led cut in  
interest rates.

First, the overall money  
supply figures will have to  
compensate for the July to  
September figures which are  
almost certain to be affected  
adversely by money returning  
to the banking system in the  
wake of the abolition of the  
banking "corset".

Second, the authorities will  
need to be convinced that  
deceleration in the private sec-  
tor's underlying demand for  
credit is likely to be sustained.  
There has been firm evidence  
for some months that the per-  
sonal sector's demand for credit  
has been decelerating, but little  
evidence that the corporate  
sector's credit appetite has been  
satisfied.

The overall bank lending  
figures for March certainly look  
much better, with the increase  
in loans to the private sector  
being held to 1.65m against the  
recent monthly average of  
about 1.75m. But commercial  
bills held outside the banking  
system rose by a further 1.6m  
and the authorities are still tak-  
ing a cautious view of the trend.

The third condition is that  
overseas interest rates are  
moving downwards. The evi-  
dence starting to look encour-  
aging after the recent drop in  
United States money market  
rates, prime rates and euro-  
dollar rates.

Continued on page 21, col 6

## 1,000 policemen being put back on streets of London

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent  
Mr Patrick Kavanagh, Deputy  
Commissioner of the Metropoli-  
tan Police, said in an exclusive  
interview yesterday that re-  
structuring of the force would  
redeploy 1,000 officers back on  
the streets.

The number of divisions in  
London has been reduced from  
82 to 75, three stations would  
be closed and another 18 closed  
at night.

Already 400 men had been  
released for operational duties  
as part of the emphasis of put-  
ting officers back on the  
streets.

Mr Kavanagh also spoke of  
new arrests as a result of the  
Countryman inquiry, told me of  
new training for the Special  
Patrol Group in race relations,  
and criticized much of the pub-  
licity of the campaign against  
"sus" laws (action by the  
police under the Vagrancy Act)

as "misguided and mislead-  
ing". The Deputy Commissioner  
said that at every stage of  
plans to restructure the Metro-  
politan Force there had been  
consultation with the local  
authorities concerned before  
changes had been decided.

Mr Kavanagh was chairman  
of the working party into re-  
structuring.

Another working party is  
looking into the establish-  
ment of the force, at present 26,589,  
a figure that had not changed  
for many years, Mr Kavanagh  
said. It was unrealistic, taking  
no account of increased leave  
and the shorter working week.

The true figure ought to be  
some thousands more than  
that.

The force was now 23,000  
strong, the highest figure ever.  
There were 96 officers from  
ethnic minorities at the close  
of the year, one was an inspec-  
tor and eight were sergeants.

"We are very anxious that  
we should have more."

Mr Kavanagh, who conducted  
an inquiry into the Special  
Patrol Group, said: "There ought  
to be any number of areas in  
London. This applies equally  
to the SPG. But at the same  
time the whole skill in policing  
is being sensitive to public  
opinion."

One of his recommendations  
was that there should be more  
training and more seminars in  
race relations. "We shall be  
using nominees from the Com-  
mission for Racial Equality and  
that will be new to the SPG."

Mr Kavanagh said that, as  
good policemen, the members  
of the group would be sensitive  
to public reaction anyway.

"One of the criticisms levelled  
at us by no less than Lord  
Murray is that we are some  
kind of CRS (the French riot  
police). Nothing could be fur-  
ther from the truth."

The CRS numbered about  
20,000. The SPG were 200  
strong. The CRS were armed  
with water cannon. The SPG  
had no equipment that was not  
issued to any other member of  
the force. Nor did they take  
part in any special training that  
was not given to any other  
member of the force, he said.

As Mr Kavanagh was speak-  
ing news was disclosed of more  
arrests as a result of Operation  
Countryman.

He said: "It is important for  
people to know that Country-  
man is not an anti-corruption  
squad looking at any matter in  
the London area. It is ap-  
pointed specifically to deal with  
some allegations made by some  
super-grassers about misdeeds  
by police officers, and all the  
rest of the inquiries going on  
at the time in the Metropolis  
are being conducted by the  
complaints investigation bureau  
of the Metropolitan Police."

Continued on page 2, col 6

## More Iran sanctions likely by Mr Carter

From David Cross

Washington, April 17  
President Carter was today  
thinking of imposing further  
economic sanctions against Iran  
in his efforts to secure the  
release of the American hos-  
tages held in Tehran.

Senior White House officials  
indicated that the new sanctions  
would probably be announced  
this week, possibly by the Presi-  
dent at a televised press  
conference late today.

They said that the new ban  
would be likely to cover exports  
of food and medicine to Iran.  
These were items specifically  
excluded from the list of diplo-  
matic and economic measures  
announced by Mr Carter last  
week.

According to the officials,  
other sanctions might include  
an import ban on some or all of  
the Iranian goods imported by  
the United States. Caviar and  
Persian carpets were considered  
likely candidates.

However, reports that Mr  
Carter might also try to pre-  
vent foreign ships from dock-  
ing at American ports if they  
were carrying Iranian goods  
were discounted.

President Carter feels it  
needed to be seen increasing  
pressure in response to grow-  
ing indications that the Ameri-  
can public is losing faith in his  
conciliatory approach to  
Tehran.

An announcement today or  
tomorrow would be particu-  
larly convenient for Mr Carter,  
who is coming under strong  
pressure from Senator Edward  
Kennedy, his Democratic rival  
for the presidency, in the run-  
up to next Tuesday's primary  
in Pennsylvania.

The new round of sanctions  
would in themselves, however,  
have a limited impact on the  
Iranian economy. White House  
officials have indicated that  
their main purpose would be  
to set a further example  
to other West European  
countries.

A coordinated ap-  
proach to the West on the  
issue would clearly be  
more keenly in  
Ayatollah Khomeini's  
interests today.

Mr Carter's announced  
national me-  
asure that "the  
Iraqi  
break-  
through  
Baghdad"  
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can public is losing faith in his  
conciliatory approach to  
Tehran.

## Hands on package

By David Feltton

Labour Reporter  
A 20 per cent pay deal for  
180,000 railwaymen linked to a  
commitment to the introduction  
of improved productivity was  
hailed by unions and manage-  
ment yesterday as a significant  
breakthrough.

The unions said the deal sig-  
nalled the end of the era of  
the cheap railway worker. British  
Rail said it was "delighted"  
with the unions' "solemn and  
binding commitment" to effi-  
ciency measures.

The offer, which will cost  
British Rail £220m in a full  
year, is to be recommended by  
leaders of the three rail  
unions to their members. The  
rise will be paid in two stages,  
16 per cent from April 21, the  
annual settlement date, and the  
remaining 4 per cent from June  
30.

A one hour reduction in the  
working week to 39 hours from  
November next year, and im-  
proved holidays for staff with  
more than two years' service  
were also agreed.

Mr Sidney Weighell, general  
secretary of the National Union  
of Railwaymen, said after the  
talks: "It is a sensible deal but

## Rail pay 'breakthrough' as unions accept 20% linked to productivity

It still presents the unions with  
enormous problems in accept-  
ing changes in working prac-  
tices. These changes will be in-  
troductory step by step and will  
give a new deal for railwaymen  
on pay and conditions."

He said it was a deal the  
unions could honour and meant  
that blue-collar railwaymen  
would for the first time be earn-  
ing more than £200 a week.

Basic minimum earnings rise to  
£66.60 outside London. A signal-  
man's weekly pay rises to  
£106.60 and that of a senior  
engine driver to more than £100.

When the negotiations opened  
last month the unions claimed  
basic increases of at least 20  
per cent with no strings  
attached.

Mr Ray Buckton, general  
secretary of the Associated  
Society of Locomotive  
Engineers and Firemen, said  
that although the unions  
believed they were entitled to a  
35 per cent increase, they were  
satisfied with the offer.

Mr Tom Jenkins, general  
secretary of the Transport Salaried  
Staffs Association, said the  
unions had given a firm com-  
mitment to carry through the  
productivity talks.

Productivity proposals centre  
on improved efficiency in

British Rail's parcels and  
freight business, which has  
traditionally made a loss and  
only recently started making  
marginal profits. General ad-  
ministration is another area  
where the unions have given  
commitments for introducing  
changes.

In the longer term wide-  
ranging proposals for the more  
efficient use of manpower, and  
changes in working practices  
will be discussed.

The deal will eventually be  
extended to cover the whole of  
British Rail's 243,000 workers  
and to include staff in sub-  
sidiaries such as the hotels,  
brewery, engineering and  
steel companies.

Mr Clifford Rose, British  
Railways Board member for in-  
dustrial relations, said: "We  
are delighted with the deal. It  
is a major breakthrough in  
terms of the commitment to  
change which was the funda-  
mental issue we had to crack  
in these pay talks."

Mr Rose said it was too  
early to say whether fares  
would have to rise because of  
the deal. He said British Rail  
will decide in the summer.

BR may cut branch lines, page 4

## Mrs Thatcher to back down on EEC budget

By Fred Emery

Political Editor  
Mrs Thatcher is no longer  
pressing for a major budget  
deficit for the EEC if justice  
is to be done.

She hopes her fellow heads  
of government will go far to-  
wards reaching a formula for  
a solution, but she has recog-  
nized that while they are eager  
to resolve the difficulty there  
are other pressing world crises  
that must also be attended to.

This account of the Prime  
Minister's thinking, which  
emerged in authoritative quar-  
ters last night, indicates how  
she has adapted the "stand  
and deliver" approach of the  
Dublin summit last November.

It is said that she has ceased  
to be either pessimistic or  
optimistic about the outcome.  
She is encouraged by the much  
greater understanding the Com-  
munity shows for an equitable  
solution.

She would hope that other  
pressing world events would  
speed the settlement of  
Britain's complaint that its net  
contribution of more than  
£1,100m be reduced nearer to  
balance.

Hint of EEC help, page 6

What then of Mrs Thatcher's  
earlier threat to consider  
withholding Britain's VAT  
payments to the EEC if justice  
is denied? It is emphasized  
that this would be a last resort,  
one to be used only if the  
Community refused to deal  
with the deficit. Before that,  
Mrs Thatcher could simply  
refuse to agree to other com-  
plicated demands for decisions on  
new farm prices, package and  
so on.

If, however, the Community  
was amenable Mrs Thatcher  
would be willing to resolve  
such difficulties at the same  
time as the deficit. The fishery  
question, that cannot be solved  
within the time available.

What is clearer is that Mrs  
Thatcher will not be satisfied  
with a one-time payment to clear  
part of the deficit this year.  
She wants a lasting formula. If  
the Community agrees, it will  
be along the lines widely dis-  
cussed by ministers of a big  
boost to special EEC spending  
in British regions.

How much Mrs Thatcher is  
pressing for is not clear,  
but it will be less than the  
£1,100m, which she used to call  
"our money back".

Leader page, 17

Letters: On the American hostages, from  
Lord Bessborough and Dr F. Kellerman;  
on Ulster, from Professor J. C. Beckwith  
and Mr J. Enoch Powell, MP; on  
race relations, from the Chairman of the  
National Association for Asian Youth.

Leading articles: Zimbabwe independence;  
Israel and Palestinian autonomy  
Features, pages 16, 18  
Charles Douglas-Hamilton on Mr Mugabe's  
toughest task; Edward Mortimer on the  
internal tensions in Iran  
Arts, page 11  
Nicholas Wapshott, reviewing films new in  
London, finds beauty and bewilderment in  
Turkowsky's Mirror  
Sport, pages 12, 13  
Golf: Young Scot has a round of 67 in  
Open. Tennis: Bradman well  
placed for third successive win in  
Debenham's tournament  
Obituary, page 19  
Vice-Admiral Lord Campbell, Mr James  
Crooks, Miss B. M. Sanderson  
Business News, pages 20-28  
Stock markets: Gilt drifted back from  
the previous day's gains while equities  
were generally firm. The FT Index closed  
down 0.5 at 322.5  
Financial Editor: Towards a cut in MLR;  
"Shell" investing in the future  
Business features: Oliver Stanley on the  
progress of the Government's tax reform  
proposals; Robin Young on self-regulation  
in the advertising industry; Kenneth Owen  
on alternative technology

## Bank union and employers meet on pay dispute

Representatives of the National West-  
minster Bank and the Banking, Finance  
and Insurance Union are to meet  
today to discuss the pay dispute which  
has tied up most of the daily four  
million cheques handled by the main  
clearing banks. The union has rejected  
the employers' "final" offer of 19 per  
cent to 68 messengers involved in the  
original dispute which is likely to affect  
other bank staff pay talks. Page 21

## Afghan call for talks

The pro-Soviet Afghan regime called for  
talks with Iran and Pakistan to nor-  
malize relations and draft a pact of  
peace, security and cooperation. Both  
Iran and Pakistan have been strongly  
critical of Soviet intervention in  
Afghanistan. Page 8

## Spectre of Soweto

A boycott of classes by thousands of  
black pupils at schools near Cape Town  
has raised the spectre of the Soweto  
riots. The pupils are protesting over  
what they say is inferior education. The  
1976 riots were sparked by the educa-  
tional grievances of black pupils. Page 9

## Front plans rally at Lewisham again

The National Front is planning a  
rally on Sunday through Lewisham  
London, where its rally in 1977 resulted  
in injuries to 110 people, 55 of them  
policemen, and cost £300,000. The  
announcement came after Lewisham  
council voted not to pay the police  
precept for 1981. Page 2

## Countryman arrests

Six men and two women were taken to  
Guildford police station for questioning  
after a series of raids by police officers  
attached to Operation Countryman, the  
investigation into London police cor-  
ruption. None of those arrested is a  
serving or former police officer. Page 2

## Printing ballot urged

Printing employers are to take a firmer  
stand against the National Graphical  
Association, which has been conducting  
a campaign of disruption for the past  
four weeks. They are urging the union  
to ballot its members on a pay offer.  
Page 2

## Olympics TV cutback

There is to be no full live coverage  
of the Olympics by either the BBC or  
independent television companies. The  
final form of coverage depends on how  
many countries take part. Page 4

## Hostile reception for new Prior clause

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for  
Employment, came under attack from  
both sides of the House of Commons  
when he introduced the controversial  
new clause of the Employment Bill,  
which limits the legal immunity of trade  
union officials in taking secondary  
industrial action. Page 2

## Jail threat lifted: Mr Stuart Dryden, a former chairman of Nottingham Forest Football Club, has six-month prison sentence suspended for two years by Court of Appeal.

Belvoir inquiry National Coal Board  
criticized for not answering questions  
on the economics of its 5760m project 5

## Pier Plan: A 66m scheme to restore Brighton's derelict West Pier, to include an amusement park, is proposed.

Moscow: Huge fraud in caviar exports  
puts Kremlin on the spot. 8

## Classified advertisement: Personal, pages 21, 32; Appointments, 22, 30; Property, 24, 26, 29; Car Buyer's Guide, 29; Holidays and hotels, 30

Home News 2, 4-6  
European News 6  
Overseas News 8-9  
Appointments 19, 25  
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Business 20-28

Chess 19  
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Crossword 22  
Diary 16  
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Law Report 10  
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Obituary 19  
Parliament 14  
Sale Room 10, 19

Science 19  
Sport 12, 13  
TV & Radio 21  
Theatres, etc 10, 11  
25 Years Ago 19  
Weather 2

One can  
that will  
help your  
employees.

Send for the free Luncheon Vouchers brochure  
and you'll find out a lot you didn't know.  
How you can give your staff a proper lunch by  
giving them LVs. How that helps them feel  
better and work better. How easy it is and  
how little it costs. So how about cutting out  
the coupon and posting it now?

LV They're worth it.



## HOME NEWS

## Printing employers to take firmer stand and call for a ballot

By David Felton

Labour Reporter

Printing employers yesterday decided to toughen their stance against the National Graphical Association, which has been conducting a campaign of disruption for the past four weeks.

Last night, the employers' organizations would not say what action was decided at an emergency meeting because they want to tell the union first. The British Printing Industries Federation said that the union would be urged to call for a ballot on a pay offer, and if it refused, action would be taken. It would not rule out the possibility of a national lockout.

The union has already threatened to spread the dispute to Fleet Street newspapers, and has also given warning of closures of provincial daily newspapers and possible bankruptcies of general printing firms.

The union responded strongly to the employers' decision, saying that it believes it had the overwhelming support of the membership for the "guerrilla" industrial action and would be interested only in talking about an improved pay offer.

However, behind the hard-line statements lies a hope that

because the two sides will be meeting again, for the first time in nearly four weeks, negotiations on the offer could be reopened. It is understood that the meeting is being held today outside London.

The federation's statement said the serious disruptive action by 65,000 NGA members had affected almost every provincial newspaper and more than 1,000 general printing firms.

"At the meeting there was overwhelming support for concerted action to be taken by the employers within a limited time in order to contain further irreparable damage to the industry," the statement said.

The federation urged the union to hold a ballot because it believes its offer of a minimum grade rate of £75 a week and a 37-1 hour working week by July 1982, would be acceptable to the membership. The union is claiming an £80 minimum and wants more rapid progress toward the introduction of a 35-hour week.

The offer is conditional on introduction of new working practices and improved productivity, but the union wants those plans to be watered down. A meeting of union regional and branch officers is being held in London tomorrow to consider intensifying action.

## Dismissed workers sit it out in the canteen

From Nicholas Timmins

Bristol

Printing workers at three Bristol newspapers, dismissed for their part in the National Graphical Association's guerrilla industrial action in the provinces, were yesterday sitting out their dismissal in the canteen and printing rooms of the three newspapers.

In what appeared to be one of the most amicable lockouts on record, the 165 dismissed workers were still being provided with trolleys and subsidized canteen facilities by the Bristol United Press management as the Newspaper Society met in London to decide its next move.

Mr James Harrison, managing editor, denied speculation that the Bristol papers had offered themselves, or been chosen by the Newspaper Society, as a test case for a tough stance by the Provincial proprietors.

The BUP management, which has suspended publication of the Bristol Evening Post (circulation 130,000), the Western Daily Press (79,000) and the weekly New Observer (9,000),

was unwilling to enlarge on its statement earlier this week. It said then that it was suspending the papers because of intolerable conditions that had led to the loss of a million copies and £250,000 in revenue.

For the printing workers, dismissed by the BUP, as it has grown from almost a family firm to a business with a £21m turnover, has had a rather sorry industrial relations record in recent years.

Mr John Cotes, father of the NGA, said it was the third time they had been dismissed in the past two or three years. The previous dismissals, lasting three or four days, were over a sick-pay dispute and the union's refusal to accept a new seven-week provincial journalists strike.

The printing workers, who are being paid £40 a week dispute benefit, are resigned to sitting out the dismissal. They see it only as part of the union's wider campaign for an £80-a-week minimum and a 37-1 hour week for the craft printing workers in the provinces.

## Unions on Burnham accept Clegg pay plan

By Our Education

Correspondent

After a meeting yesterday lasting an hour, representatives of the five teachers' unions on the Burnham Committee, the national negotiating body on teachers' pay, agreed unanimously to accept the recommendations of the Clegg report and to make that the basis of their claim at today's meeting of the full Burnham Committee.

According to one teachers' representative, it was "the shortest, most amicable, meeting of the Burnham teachers' panel for years".

Mr Terence Casey, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, had originally said that his union would not accept the Clegg recommendations.

Meanwhile slow progress continues to be made in the totally separate working party on teachers' conditions of service set up jointly a year ago by the local authorities and all the unions except the NAS/UTW, which has steadfastly refused to take part in any discussions on conditions of service.

At yesterday's meeting of the working party, both sides continued to study the employers' draft proposals for a working week of 27½ hours maximum class teaching, 24 hours minimum "free" time for marking and lesson preparation, and 7½ hours maximum for "other professional duties", such as mid-day supervision and attendance at parents' evenings.

The employers will firmly point out at today's Burnham meeting the Clegg commissions assumption in making its recommendations, of the extra hours put in by teachers outside school; and its use of the term "obligation" in connection with teachers' extra-curricular activities.

But they will not try to make agreement on that a condition of the comparability pay award for teachers.

Mr Richard Verrall, deputy chairman of the National Front, said yesterday that the decision to hold a march had been taken only because the Lewisham council had refused permission for a public meeting in support of Mrs Cynthia Mirabita, the Front's candidate in the forthcoming Lewisham West by-election to the Greater London Council.

Mr Verrall said: "We made it clear to the council that if they did not allow us to have a meeting, we would hold a march. We would march rather than have the meeting."

The decision to hold the march was made over the week

## Borough demands greater local accountability from Metropolitan force NF plans rally after Lewisham bars police cash

By Ian Bradley

The National Front is planning a march through Lewisham, London, on Sunday, April 20, in protest at the borough council's decision to refuse a public meeting in support of Mrs Cynthia Mirabita, the Front's candidate in the forthcoming Lewisham West by-election to the Greater London Council.

On Wednesday, the council voted not to pay its precept to the Metropolitan Police from April 1981, unless it receives assurances of improved policing and greater police accountability.

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end and became public only yesterday. Mr Verrall said that it was difficult to say how many National Front supporters would be taking part, because of the short notice. "It could be a few hundred, or it could be over a thousand."

No attempt had been made to ban the march. The Metropolitan Police said it would police the event according to the circumstances.

The last march by the National Front through Lewisham, on August 13, 1977, resulted in 214 arrests and 110 injuries, 55 of them to policemen. More than 2,000 people were involved in keeping order at a cost of £300,000.

The cost and scale of the police operations during the 1977 march were mentioned by several of the Labour councillors who voted on Wednesday evening to withhold Lewisham's precept to the Metropolitan Police next year.

Mr James Dawd, who successfully moved the motion, said that it was worrying that police priorities could mean spending £300,000 on escorting a National Front march while the borough had the highest burglary rate in the country and unresolvable traffic schemes.

Yesterday Mr Ronald Pepper, deputy leader of Lewisham

council, said: "What concerns us is that over £250,000 was spent on escorting 600 people, which might jeopardize the good working relationship which exists between the local authority and the police."

He said that he was disappointed that the matter had not been discussed by senior police officers and local councillors through the police liaison group in Lewisham.

Mr Steven Barrett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police branch of the Police Federation, said that the council's decision was "inappropriate and irresponsible". He said that "for trying to get political control of the police."

Mr Nicholas Bennett, leader of the Conservative opposition on the council, also deplored the decision.

The council's decision was condemned by Mrs Margaret Thatcher in the House of Commons. She said: "I would like to express my full confidence in Sir David McNee and the London police force. They need support, not criticism."

Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham West, defended the council's decision. "It is utterly unreasonable for the ratepayers to be expected to fund the police without any control whatsoever in running them."

that he is visited frequently."

Mr Kavanagh said that he would applaud the idea of creating special detoxification centres.

There is a strong feeling among some of our clergies that we should say how many lives are saved by being in police custody."

A sergeant in central London recently applied for a promotion to a post in a voluntary group and saved his life. A similar incident happened in Southall just after the death of Mr Blair Peach.

A locally known drunk, an Asian, collapsed in a heap near the police station and a member of the public went in and told police. He was brought in and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation was applied but he died. An attempt to whip it up into a campaign failed, because the local people, who knew the circumstances, did not believe it.

Mr Kavanagh said the force was commissioning a review of public opinion of the police.

"People are often pontificating and saying what relations are between police and public. It is very subjective, most of it."

Mr David McNee, the Commissioner, had invited the Police Federation to a meeting on the subject of public opinion of the police.

The last study, 10 years ago, disclosed high confidence in the police by the public. The new survey was intended to show whether that was the same or had changed.

Commenting on the decision of Lewisham Borough Council to withhold money from the force unless it received assurances of improved policing and greater police accountability, Mr Kavanagh said: "The police must be answerable to the law and to the public, not to a local authority or a borough council."

The Lewisham protest was described as "unpractical because of the special conditions in London."

London was a "special case" because of the large number of foreign embassies and a diplomatic corps; these were special arrangements for the protection of Parliament and commitments to police demonstrations.

## Eight arrested after Countryman raids

By Stewart Treadler

Crime Reporter

Six men and two women were taken to Guildford police station for questioning yesterday after the largest of a series of raids by Operation Countryman, the investigation into London police corruption.

None of them is a serving or former police officer.

They are thought to be from east London and it is understood that they were questioned about the three big robberies from which the allegations of corruption stemmed and inspired Countryman more than 15 months ago. Other arrests are expected.

The robberies concerned payrolls at the offices of the Daily Mirror and Daily Express, and the headquarters of Williams and Glyn's Bank in the City of London.

Several civilians were questioned by Countryman officers after raids some months ago, but they were released later.

The operation has become the subject of controversy with allegations of non-cooperation from London officers and suggestions that the provincial officers were out of their depth.

## Police custody 'has saved many lives'

Continued from page 1

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## How Barvas came in out of the drought

From Ronald Faux

Stornoway

The Western Isles parish that was dry but cypresses were wet yesterday made officially wet in the hope that it will become controllably drier.

The tangled drinking question of Barvas, Lewis, the last parish in the Western Isles to ban the sale of alcohol, was settled by the Western Isles Council in Stornoway. By 14 votes to 10 councillors decided that Barvas should become officially wet and the sale of liquor allowed. A move to continue the ban for a further 10 years was defeated in a secret ballot.

Consent to the consultative referendum in Barvas last month. By 1,120 to 612 parishioners voted to keep the area dry, thus maintaining a tradition that had lasted 120 years.

For the past fifty years, however, Barvas has been illegally soaking wet, according to observers in the area, because of the cypresses, which are drinking clubs but in a grey area of the law. The consultative referendum was held after two hotels in the parish asked the council to lift the restriction permitting them to have only a table licence.

Councillor Kenneth MacIver said police had no objection to the repeal, as it would lead to stricter control of drinking habits in the area. They should get rid of the present confusion.

Councillor Angus Morrison, of Ness, a leader in the campaign to keep Barvas dry, moved the amendment to the restriction should continue for a further decade. He said people of the area had made it clear they wished Barvas to remain dry. The council should abide by their decision.

Mr James Patterson, one of the licensees, said after the meeting: "Common sense and sanity have prevailed over the force that has existed for too long."

A police spokesman thought the council's decision would probably spell the end for the banns. They would hardly be able to compete with a proper public house.

"They were usually no more than huts in the middle of a moor. No one would admit to owning them. Only two were used regularly, mainly at weekends by a small number of elderly men."

"They were dry and do no harm to anyone," he said. "As no money changes hands and no one profits, it is just like you having a party at home." They were, however, completely unpleasant, with no facilities, no comfort and the door was firmly locked.

## Students collect £150 for IRA supporters

From a Staff Reporter

Two women from Northern Ireland who spoke in support of the IRA received £150 from an unofficial collection at the National Union of Students conference yesterday.

Mr Trevor Phillips, outgoing president, escorted students to demand the resignation of a college lecturer belonging to the National Front.

At the Royal Horticultural Society's spring show, reported on April 16, the Engleheart Challenge cup for 12 varieties of daffodils raised by the exhibitor was awarded to Mr J. S. Lee, Dunley Hall, Stourport, Worcestershire, not to Mrs J. Abell Smith.

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## Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY

Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS: Warm, Cold, Occluded. Wind: Force, Direction. Rain: Rain, Drizzle, Snow, Hail, Fog, etc.

London: 12.5°C. Wind: 10-15 mph. Rain: 10-15 mm. Drizzle: 10-15 mm. Fog: 10-15 mm. Hail: 10-15 mm. Snow: 10-15 mm. etc.

Manchester: 12.5°C. Wind: 10-15 mph. Rain: 10-15 mm. Drizzle: 10-15 mm. Fog: 10-15 mm. Hail: 10-15 mm. Snow: 10-15 mm. etc.

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## Mr Prior finds a moderate path through the crossfire

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent

Westminster

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, was caught in a dangerous trap last night in the Commons by a vote on a clause in the Employment Bill which could have a devastating effect on the fortunes of the Government during the years up to the next election than any other legislation, were never in serious danger.

But there was clear evidence that the Government was not prepared to defend their members against attack.

Summarizing the new clause, the Secretary of State said that primary industrial action would be outlawed. He said that the Government had no intention of having the immunity now had. Secondary action would have immunity only if it satisfied three conditions:

- 1 That the action was taken by employees of first suppliers of goods or services to the employer in dispute;
- 2 That the principal purpose was directly to prevent or disrupt the supply of goods or services between the employer and his supplier or customer during the dispute;
- 3 That it was likely to achieve that purpose.

Mr Prior insisted that nothing in the clause or in the Bill affected primary action, and where trade union members were in dispute with their employer a union official would retain his existing immunity under the law to organize industrial action at his own place of work.

Parliamentary report, page 14

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Parliamentary report, page 14

## Archbishop chooses aide

By Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondent

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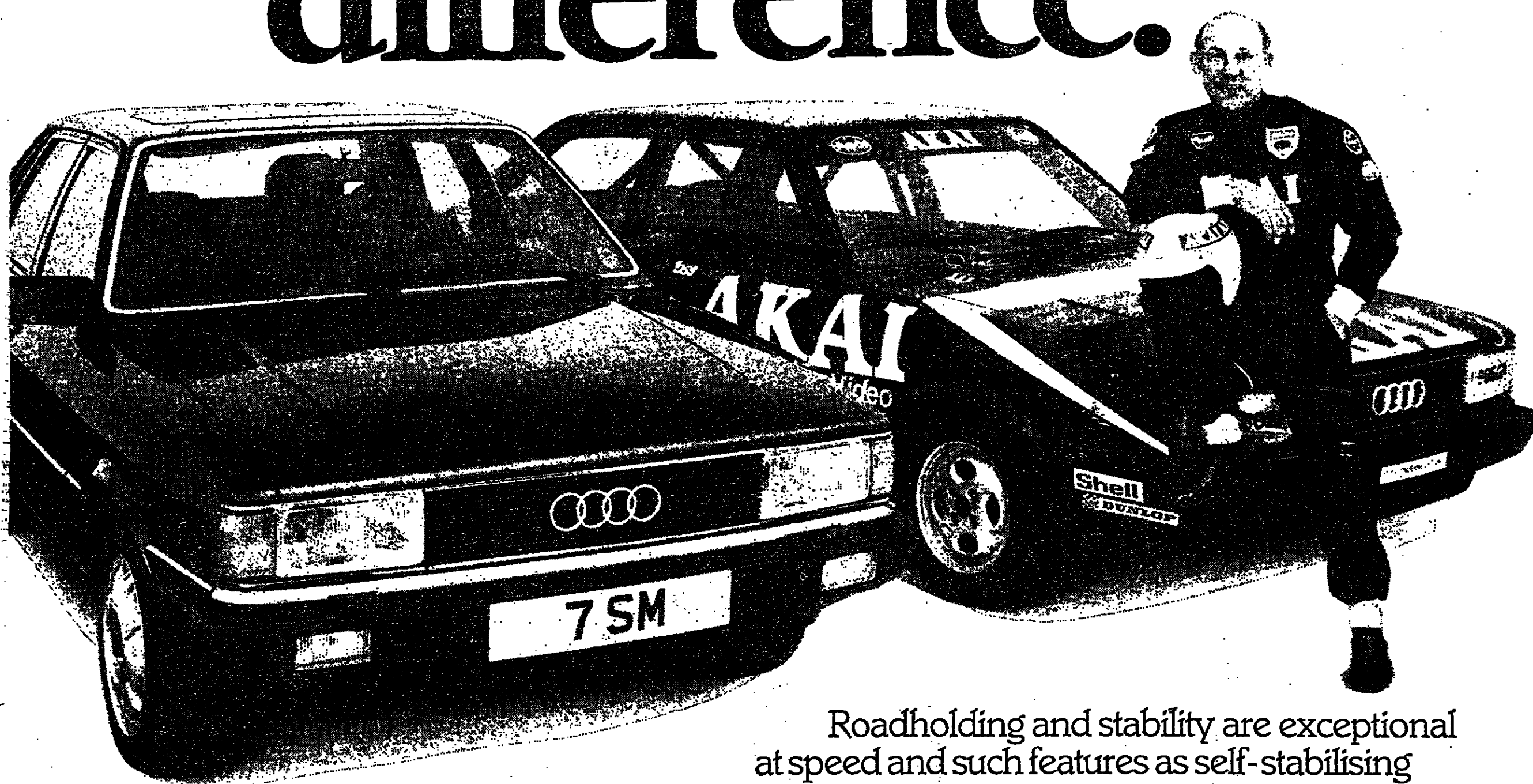
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# "I drive one and race the other. Sometimes can hardly tell the difference."



The car Stirling Moss drives to and from the racetrack is the Audi 80 GLE.

The car he powers around the circuit is again an Audi 80, though this time a specially prepared racing version.

Naturally, the latter is the quicker of the two. It also has modified suspension and a functional rather than luxurious interior.

More interesting, however, are the features the car started with.

For, as Stirling pointed out: "I have never driven a saloon which, even in standard form, so clearly has all the makings of a race winner."

The 80 GLE is, of course, a fast car in its own right.

It will reach 60 mph from rest in a mere 9.2 seconds and power effortlessly on to a top speed of 113 mph.

Yet while it is a fast car, it's also a very safe car.

Roadholding and stability are exceptional at speed and such features as self-stabilising steering and a dual-circuit braking system add greatly to the driver's peace of mind.

Inside, the car is roomy, quiet and very luxuriously appointed.

And the sleek looks of the 80 GLE are due only in part to aesthetics: the aerodynamic wedge shape helps on fuel economy (an admirable 39.2 mpg at a constant 56 mph), reduces wind noise and also gives excellent all-round visibility.

Your local Audi dealer will happily let you try the Audi 80 GLE (or indeed the LS or GLS version), should you wish to put our claims to the test.

Stirling Moss did precisely the same once. And now he drives two.

**The new Audi 80.**  
**Audi The car for now.**

OFFICIAL AUDI 80 GLE FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES ARE: FOR THE URBAN CYCLE 23.5 MPG (12 LITRES PER 100 KM) AT A CONSTANT 56 MPH, 39.2 MPG (7.2 LITRES PER 100 KM) AND AT A CONSTANT 75 MPH, 30.7 MPG (9.2 LITRES PER 100 KM). FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE TO AUDI MARKETING DEPARTMENT, VOLKSWAGEN (GB) LIMITED, YEOMAN'S DRIVE, BLAKELANDS, MILTON KEYNES, BEDFORDSHIRE MK14 5AN. DIPLOMATIC, NATO AND PERSONAL EXPORT SALES, 95 BAKER STREET, LONDON W1. TELEPHONE 01-486 8411.



## HOME NEWS

# British Rail may seek branch line cuts and rural bus links

By Michael Bailey  
Transport Correspondent

British Rail is expected to reopen with the Government this summer the question of branch-line closures, despite the uproar when it was last raised in November.

There will be no question, however, of large closures such as the 41 services on 900 miles of route mentioned then, which drew a forceful denial from Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport, that such closures were being or would be entertained by the Government.

Instead, British Rail is expected to propose closure of up to a dozen lines used by branch lines in the West Country, East Anglia, and the North, excluding substantial cross-country links such as the central Wales line, and those north of Liverpool. Such closures would still make substantial savings without, it is felt, causing serious hardship to the public.

That would be especially so if, as is likely to be proposed, the rural lines are replaced by guaranteed contract bus services time-tabled by British Rail to connect with remaining railheads. Local authorities will be asked to provide financial support for the buses on the understanding that they will be reimbursed by central Government, for whom it will be substantially cheaper than supporting the present services by rail.

Mr Fowler was widely felt to have closed the door on rail closures so far as the Government was concerned, but his actual phrase, in a letter to Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, after his Commons statement on November 9, was "my firm policy is that there should be no substantial [our italics] cuts in the passenger rail network."

It is understood that the Government would in fact welcome modest proposals from British Rail for the same reason that the success of public expenditure and need to contain subsidies to the railways; the effect that is having on the board's operations in the light of cost inflation, including the present wage settlement; and the need to concentrate investment where it is most required: freight and inter-city passenger and south-east commuter services.

On rural lines that remain open, low cost innovations such as radio control in place of traditional signalling and road traffic signals at level crossings are receiving serious study at British Rail, which had previously been strongly opposed to them.

Further real fare rises for those commuters, who are the nearest British Rail has to a monopoly market, would merely make the situation worse; the social value of the services should be recognized by support from local, as opposed to national, taxation, the Central Transport Consultative Committee says in its annual report.

While it is true that many commuters to London earn above-average salaries, many do not; and finding up to £500 or £700 out of taxed income can be a severe burden, especially in view of rapidly rising housing and living costs, the committee says. "There is evidence that many people who moved into new housing in the 30-50-mile radius from London in the early 1970s have opted to take local jobs, which although they pay less, reduce travel costs and time dramatically."

Employment in central London is already declining from 1.4 million in 1961 to 1.07 million in 1981, and that is likely to be encouraged by the development of out-of-town centres, and accelerated by real

price rises in commuter fares, the report says.

The pricing option is not as attractive as it might appear, whatever the argument might imply. The level of discount offered on season tickets at a time when the service is most expensive to provide is the nub of the problem, but it is difficult to see how the railways could escape from a system of their own devising.

"Progressive reductions in the tapering discount for mileage might be an answer, as might the level of infrastructure provided to meet peak demand; but more important is a recognition of the social value of the network and a commensurate level of support, perhaps via local rather than national taxation."

Punctuality on the railways is very poor and getting worse. Mr Frank Higgins said at a press briefing by the committee in London yesterday. In the past three years the proportion of late and cancelled trains has risen throughout British Rail.

On the possibility of further rail closures, the committee says the Beeching exercise showed that buses were not an adequate substitute for trains. Apart from a few short grossly inadequate services, closures would be against the national interest in the light of the likely

price rises in commuter fares, the report says.

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# Amusement park plan for Brighton pier

From John Young  
Planning Reporter  
Brighton

A £5m scheme to rescue and restore Brighton's derelict West Pier is to be submitted to the district council within the next few weeks. It would include a new amusement park, dominated by a 60ft high roller coaster and a 150ft wide Ferris wheel.

The instigator is Mr Alan Hawes, aged 53, an entrepreneur, who was born in London, but has spent the past 30 years in the United States.

During those years, he says, he built 60 Mississippi paddle steamers, sight-seeing towers at Daytona Beach, Florida, and Niagara Falls, more than 30 aerial walkways and "probably more passenger monorails than anyone else in the world".

"I even built a frontier museum in Texas, including a replica of a nineteenth-century bawdy house. That's not bad for an Englishman."

Mr Hawes, who says he spent £3m in the first three months of this year, has a "big wheel" opening in Morecambe today and is constructing a monorail along the Rhyol seafloor.

He has strong views on the backwardness and lack of imagination of the British



Mr Alan Hawes at the pier he hopes to lease and restore.

amusement industry. "Apart from Blackpool, it is 20 years behind the United States and the rest of Europe," he says.

"For some reason, all the leisure companies in this country choose to put their money into slot machines and betting shops."

He first heard of the West Pier's plight on a television programme. He was subsequently introduced to the Lord Secretary of the Brighton West Pier Society, which has campaigned to save it from demolition.

Since the former owners went

into liquidation, the pier has passed into the hands of the Crown Estates Commissioners, who have offered to sell it for £100 to anyone who can show that he has access to the estimated £800,000 needed for essential repairs.

The society now hopes that, with Mr Hawes's support, it will be able to buy the pier, lease it and lease it to him.

Mr Lloyd says the society's management is completely in favour of the idea.

Informal approaches to the council have met with a non-committal response, Mr Hawes

declared. "They say they would like to see a concrete proposal put forward, but that they expect it to encounter opposition."

If the scheme is accepted, the first step will be to make the pier safe. The amusement park will then be built at the shoreward end to generate revenue which will then be used for the restoration of the rest of the structure, including the pavilion.

The attitudes that characterize most British fairgrounds will be firmly eschewed, he declares.

Photograph by John Manning

# Warning that high fares bring social changes

By Our Transport  
Correspondent

High rail fares are forcing South-east commuters to give up their jobs in London and find work locally at lower salaries, the "consumer watchdog" for the railways said yesterday.

Further real fare rises for those commuters, who are the nearest British Rail has to a monopoly market, would merely make the situation worse; the social value of the services should be recognized by support from local, as opposed to national, taxation, the Central Transport Consultative Committee says in its annual report.

While it is true that many commuters to London earn above-average salaries, many do not; and finding up to £500 or £700 out of taxed income can be a severe burden, especially in view of rapidly rising housing and living costs, the committee says. "There is evidence that many people who moved into new housing in the 30-50-mile radius from London in the early 1970s have opted to take local jobs, which although they pay less, reduce travel costs and time dramatically."

Employment in central London is already declining from 1.4 million in 1961 to 1.07 million in 1981, and that is likely to be encouraged by the development of out-of-town centres, and accelerated by real

price rises in commuter fares, the report says.

The pricing option is not as attractive as it might appear, whatever the argument might imply. The level of discount offered on season tickets at a time when the service is most expensive to provide is the nub of the problem, but it is difficult to see how the railways could escape from a system of their own devising.

"Progressive reductions in the tapering discount for mileage might be an answer, as might the level of infrastructure provided to meet peak demand; but more important is a recognition of the social value of the network and a commensurate level of support, perhaps via local rather than national taxation."

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# UK threat to Canadian air services

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

A meeting between Britain and Canadian government aviation negotiators ended in London yesterday without agreement and with the British side threatening to restrict services by Canadian airlines to the United Kingdom.

The meeting had been called to try to resolve a dispute over the refusal by Canada to allow British Airways to fly non-stop services between Britain and Vancouver unless Air Canada was allowed to pick up in London passengers bound for Europe and to fly a service between London and Hong Kong.

The Canadian negotiators were told that unless an agreement was reached by next April, their operators would not be allowed to continue to fly non-stop services from the west coast of Canada to Britain.

Stephen William Evans, aged 21, unemployed, of Forncett range, Forncett St Peter, Norfolk, was charged at Thetford yesterday with the murder of Miss Mary Armstrong, aged 72, a former headmistress. He was remanded in custody for a week.

# Police escort Sir Rupert Mackeson back to Britain

Sir Rupert Mackeson, aged 38, the baronet wanted for questioning by Scotland Yard over alleged fraud offences, arrived at Gatwick airport, London, yesterday, escorted by two police officers. He was arrested in Zimbabwe on Tuesday and held as a prohibited immigrant.

He was later escorted to Bow Street police station, London. The police said they would be questioning him about three offences under the Theft Act. It is believed a number of other matters have also to be discussed. No charges are expected in the next two days.

Sir Rupert, son of the late Brigadier Sir Henry Mackeson, former Conservative MP for Folkestone and Rythe, disappeared from Britain at the end of October, 1977. He was alleged to have left debts, thought to total £100,000.

His departure from Britain came at about the time the police began to receive complaints from holidaymakers at home and abroad who had booked with Sir Rupert's cultural tours company, Master Classes.

His mother, who died last year aged 65, had issued a writ against him for the return of her jewelry and cash worth £13,000. She was never able to serve it. Scotland Yard circulated a description of Sir Rupert to Interpol and issued an arrest warrant for him alleging a

£20,000 fraud, which he has since denied in interviews with reporters.

The Rhodesian authorities told him that he would be deported and there was a legal wrangle from his refusal to accept a telegram to the Home Secretary pleading for the return of his passport which had been sent to Britain by Bishop Muzorewa's government.

He claimed that "enemies in the City of London" had told him he would be killed if he set foot in England again.

He told a national newspaper in Britain that the men who wanted him dead killed Lord Lucan.

Last July Rhodesia ordered his deportation. In Johannesburg, South Africa he was asked from the aircraft by South Africa's negotiator his return to Rhodesia.

Last November he was released after a court ruling that he had been unlawfully held because there was no extradition treaty between Rhodesia and Britain.

He began to sue the authorities for unlawful detention.

He stayed on, only to find himself facing a new deportation threat after the Rhodesian peace settlement which meant the country was once again subject to British law and extradition treaties.

Scotland Yard detectives started new moves to get him back to Britain.

# Universities lose foreign applications

By Our Education  
Correspondent

Applications to universities from home students have risen by 4 per cent compared with the same time last year, while applications from overseas students have fallen by 12 per cent, according to figures published yesterday by the Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA).

Women accounted for the entire increase among home candidates, their applications showing a rise of 5 per cent over 1979, while applications from men fell by 1 per cent. Women accounted for 44 per cent of home candidates applying for entry this October.

The drop in applications from overseas students appears particularly big because of the high number of applicants last year. But there is still a 6 per cent drop compared with 1978.

The UCCA suggests that many overseas applicants may not have heard about the big increase in fees for overseas students this autumn. If that is so, the proportion of applicants able to take up an offer of a place will fall even more sharply.

The Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts, and the overseas development sub-committee of the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, hope to publish their reports on May on the implications of the Government's decision to increase overseas students' fees, provided that they can be printed by then.

Applications from home and overseas candidates to civil engineering and mechanical engineering courses are substantially down (by 16 per cent and 8 per cent respectively), but there have been big increases in three other engineering fields: aeronautical (14 per cent), electrical (12 per cent), and general (8 per cent).

# No full live coverage of Olympics on TV

By a Staff Reporter

There is to be no full live coverage of the Olympic Games by either the BBC or the Independent Television Companies.

The decision was announced yesterday, confirming a statement made last month by the BBC. The final form of the coverage by the two organisations will depend on how many countries decide to compete in Moscow.

The full statement said: "The BBC and the ITC in consultation with the independent television companies have jointly confirmed that they will not go ahead with the full live coverage of the Olympic Games as formerly intended."

"There will be further discussions as the situation develops about the precise form and extent of the reduced coverage to be given to the games."

A BBC official explained that same statement already made by the BBC. "If you only have the Soviet block countries competing, then there would obviously not be the same interest. The United States may decide to hold an alternative Olympics and the British Olympic Committee may decide not to go to Moscow. It is all very much in the melting pot."

The two organisations were planning to spend about £3m each on Olympics coverage. One official said yesterday that it was "an expensive way of getting a lot of viewers". The BBC had expected in the normal way to give 200 hours of coverage. Now it sees its role as giving the same kind of news treatment as any other sports event.

It will be the end of May before a decision is made.

In Norway, 75 former Olympic champions, leading athletes and sports administrators have jointly called on the Norwegian

Sports Federation

boycott of the game

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# Minister pledges fight regain home food market

By Hugh Clayton  
Agriculture Correspondent

The main task of the Ministry of Agriculture is to ensure that the food we eat is as good as it can be. It has already made three measures to make the market for food more effective.

First, he is inings with leaders unions, food co- supermarket chain find the wild idea for the next five years.

Mr Walker said probably the first in Britain to I. from this country in the EEC about the food industry. "We are galvanising service to test than ever before. He also intends more information mysteries of EEC available from his industry."

# Farm price review sou

By Our Agricultural  
Correspondent

Farm price changes suggested by the European Commission discriminated against Britain and needed further examination in Parliament, the Commons Select Committee on European Legislation said yesterday.

It said in a report about the commission paper, Agricultural Price Proposals 1980/81, that recommendations from Brussels would lead to the community farm fund being used for the

benefit of small

were "non-viable" on efficiently-run

The committee that EEC plans to surplus would discriminatory against Britain v by almost a quarter in France and Wt would be reduced a tenth. Twenty-third Report Select Committee on European Legislation; Statist: £3.75.

# Study on monitoring hazardous load

From Ronald Kershaw  
Middlesbrough

The feasibility of a system of advance warnings to emergency services of the presence and nature of potentially hazardous loads in chemical-carrying tankers in urban areas was discussed at Middlesbrough yesterday.

Professor Peter J. Hills, professor of transport engineering and director of the transport operations research group at Newcastle University, was seeking responses from delegates to the seventh symposium on the transport of hazardous substances held by Cleveland Constabulary and Teesside Polytechnic.

He said that a study for which a grant had been awarded by the Science Research Council, involved the application of the rapidly developing technology of vehicle identification and the use of electronic devices to enable encoded information carried on a vehicle to be

transmitted automatically to a central control point.

So far, efforts to minimize the risk in bulk movements of hazardous goods had concentrated on coping with the aftermath of accidents. In many cases, initiatives aimed at risk reduction had come from voluntary working parties set up by bodies such as the Chemical Industry Association and the emergency services.

The common thread running through various approaches had generally been allied to the best way of handling an incident after the event.

"If, however, the emergency services in the areas through which any potentially hazardous bulk consignment is conveyed were given advance warning of its presence, the nature of the load, and its proposed destination from the time at which the area was entered, various courses of action could be adopted before

any incident occurred.

Professor Hills said of induction loops of detection of vehicles in place in urban areas, the need to develop the presence of sp of vehicle. The was for increasingly s detection of any duction loops wou rogate "vehicles, d passage over the transmit an encod to a control point.

The study would identification of flows of hazardous cussion with local police, and other services in areas of identification of fea either institutiona, nologically, of movements of tanks determination of th monitoring

# Jail term of former football club chief is suspended

The threat of a six-month jail sentence on Stuart Dryden, former chairman of Nottingham Forest Football Club, was lifted by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

It ruled that Mr Dryden, aged 53, who had been granted bail shortly after the sentence was passed on January 15 for frauds on the Post Office, should not have to return to prison. It suspended the sentence for two years.

Mr Dryden, of Trevor Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, had been convicted of obtaining cash by deception at the sub-post office he ran at Ruddington, Nottingham, by submitting bogus claims for payment for a holiday relief.

Yesterday he abandoned his application for leave to appeal against conviction. Lord Roskill, sitting with Lord Justice Mustill, said the evidence that Mr Dryden had acted dishonestly was absolutely overwhelming.

Lord Roskill said the court, with some hesitation, felt Mr Dryden's sentence could be suspended because the trial judge at Nottingham Crown Court was unduly influenced by the fact that he was a sub-postmaster.

# Corrosion warning

Police advised drivers on the M6 yesterday to wash their cars after a drum of corrosive fluid fell from a lorry near Hilton Park service station on the motorway in Staffordshire.

Two police sergeants saved a woman aged 20 from death as she fell from a bridge over the M6 motorway at the Charnock Richard service station near Chorley, Lancashire, early yesterday.

Bridge rescue

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Bridge rescue

# Have you the will meet the challenge

Life in the world's greatest city is a challenge enough to survive. In London there are over 16,000 blind people who need your help.

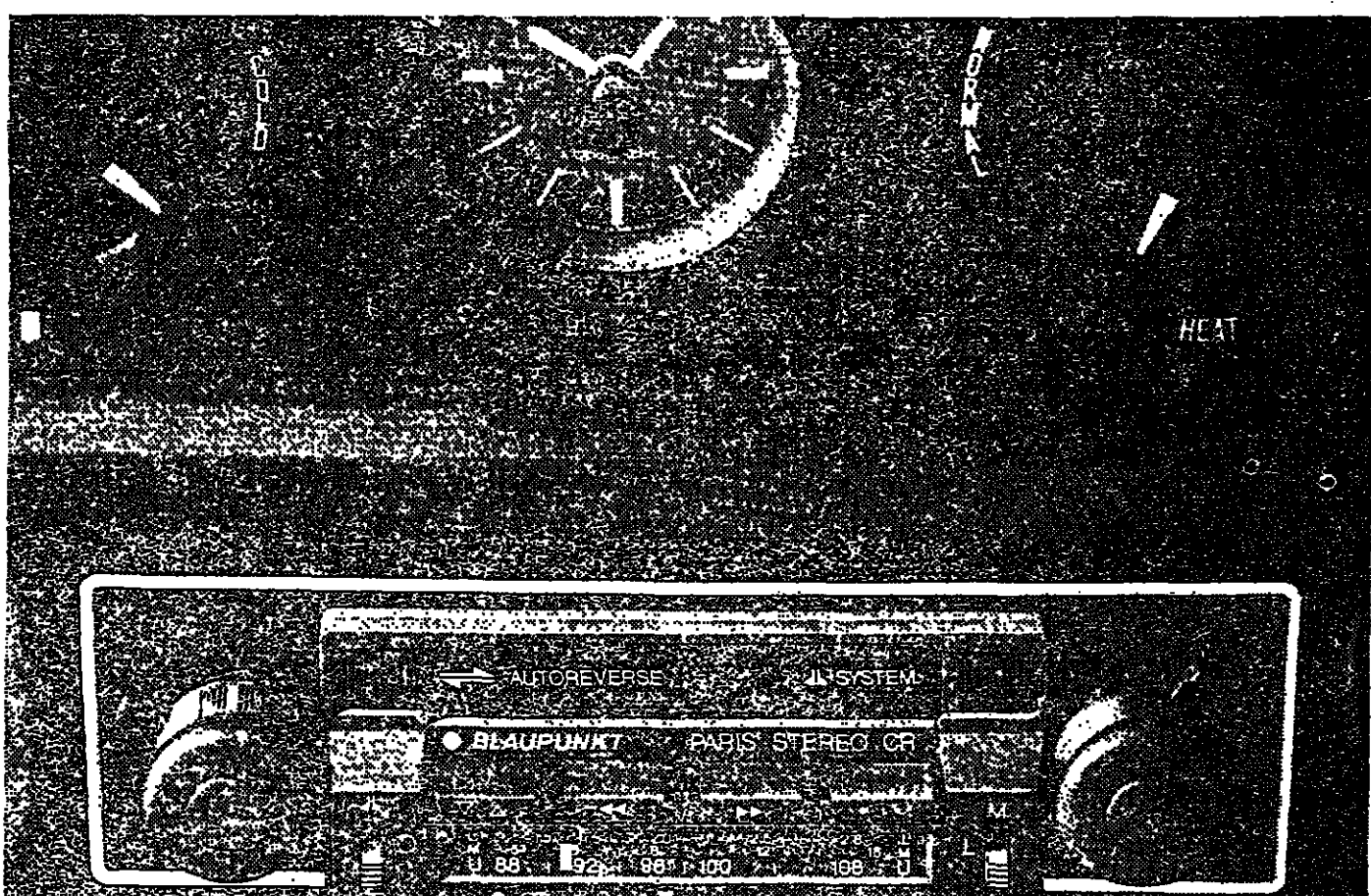
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## Councils say they can afford only 7 to 8% wage claims if teachers' award is met in full

By Christopher Warrman  
Local Government  
Correspondent

If the Clegg comparability awards to teachers are paid in full, local government can only afford wage claims of 7 to 8 per cent during this financial year, Sir Godfrey Taylor, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said yesterday.

He told a meeting of the association that after meeting its commitments, there was only £750m left to cover claims yet to come for teachers from April 1, when the staff from July 1, when the association from November, and the index-linked police and firemen's pay.

Every 1 per cent on the local government rate is estimated to cost £100m, which led to the fact that local government on its own could only meet wage claims of 7 to 8 per cent, Sir Godfrey said.

Mr Jack Smart, leader of the Labour minority group in the association, said that the association's position in which local authorities find themselves, "I am sure that the majority will settle for less than 20 per cent, that is £2,000m."

"The Secretary of State has stated that there is no more cash, and we therefore need at least £1,500m to meet the minimum settlements that you can expect, the trade unions to accept."

Unless the Government helped to meet the added burden, local authorities would either have to impose whole-sale redundancies, which would mean a complete breakdown of the services provided, or to levy a supplementary rate, Mr Smart said.

The meeting became heated when Mr Smart criticized the association for its decision to cooperate with the Government on working out details of the proposed black award.

He told Sir Godfrey: "You have told Sir Godfrey: 'You have decided that you have done it that you have sacrificed local government to your political masters. If there is a change in control in this country, the next elections on May 1, the new controlling 114-seat group will continue to fight to repair the damage you have done.'"

But Sir Godfrey responded: "We have frequently drawn attention to it and have suggested ways in which it could be considerably reduced if not eliminated entirely."

There is a government "col-... .. and puff when central resources are challenged as being a grave disservice to the public."

Mr Smart said that the annual conference of the association, which represents 240 local government councils in England and Wales, "It would be foolish and

From Sir Godfrey, who said it was vital to continue to try to work with the Government.

Sir Godfrey said the country was in a state of crisis, and local government could not go along by itself doing its own thing. "We are going to face serious problems. We are going to have to decide what we can afford to pay, and if we cannot pay what the unions ask, we will have to say we cannot afford to pay."

He detailed the effect of last November's rate support grant settlement to show the financial crisis that local government is facing. The cash limit on grant to cover inflation in wages and prices for the 12 months, April 1980, to March 1981, was £1,572m, implying additional expenditure to meet inflation of some £2,500m (since the Government grant is set at 61 per cent).

Against that £2,500m was set the cost of the recently settled white-collar comparability award of 13.1 per cent, manual workers' award in November, 1979, of 13 per cent, and about 13.2 per cent in a full year if the Clegg award was settled in full.

Both central and local government were caught in the trap they helped to create—the trap of "bigness," Mr Smart suggested.

Propaganda had furthered the belief that efficiency and value for money must surely flow from the setting up of larger authorities, but reality was the opposite, while duplication and overlapping of services persisted.

The time was ripe for local councils to exert pressure in government circles to show how money could be saved, not necessarily by cutting services but by a sharing of services between authority and authority.

## Compromise hint by French minister over Britain and EEC

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, April 17

The National Assembly was sparsely attended this morning for the foreign policy statement by M. Jean-François Poncelet. But the few deputies who bothered to listen carefully to the Foreign Minister's survey detected an unusually strong condemnation of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, a rather overdone emphasis on Israel's right to security, and the hint of a working compromise on Britain's difficulties with the EEC.

On the last point, M. Poncelet said the French Government was "ready to give its support and help to its ally in dark hours." But it would oppose any compromise which undermined the foundations of the European Community.

If, like other governments before it, the British Government asked for assistance "limited in amount and time," the problem was "of the kind the Community had overcome in the past and must be able to overcome today."

But the notion of broad balance could apply to one country only. A solution could and must be found. "To make it possible, all member countries must agree to adapt themselves to the Community and to insist the Community adapt to it."

France agreed there could be a better distribution of Community expenditure. But agriculture was the only sector for which the Community had entire responsibility, and expenditure on it was only 0.2 per cent of its gross domestic product. As for surpluses, they

were expensive but applied only to very few commodities.

"They cannot therefore be used as an excuse to bring into question the whole agricultural policy." The policy could be revised for three reasons: to preserve family concerns, to produce an exportable surplus, and to respect Community preference and market organization. These did not apply to lamb.

It was wrong and dishonest to claim that France, by delaying applying the verdict of the Court of Justice, was in breach of the Rome treaty. The lamb dispute "leads us to wonder whether the objective is not to turn the EEC into a mere free trade area." He said France would not compromise on this point.

On Afghanistan, he said there was no question of helping to achieve a ceasefire. It was the last and most dramatic demonstration of a progressive deterioration in East-West relations since 1975.

France had from the outset branded the Soviet intervention as unacceptable. The objective was the withdrawal of Soviet forces and the neutralization of Afghanistan.

But dialogue was never more necessary than in times of crisis. "France has always told the Soviet Union, and no one better than she can drive home that it must make the necessary moves to restore détente."

He said that in the Middle East a solution could only be political, not military. Global negotiations must be based on the rights of the Palestinians and of Israel.



Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, trying on an Oly mask at a Bonn reception.

## Nuclear inquiry favours Plogoff

From Ian Murray  
Paris, April 17

The commission of inquiry into plans to build what would be Europe's largest nuclear power station at Plogoff, on the remote Pointe du Raz in Brittany, have found favour of the project.

After a 45-day public inquiry, which was accompanied by daily protests and demonstrations led by ecology groups, the commissioners have decided that the power station should be built.

Their report, which has been delivered to the prefect for the region, will now go before the State Council and ultimately before the Prime Minister and the Minister for Industry for approval, a process which will probably last until early next year. Never the less, there has

never been a case where the advice of an inquiry commission has been rejected at a later stage.

The plan to build the 5,200-megawatt station on a peninsula regarded as being the equivalent of the Land's End of France, has provoked widespread feeling among anti-nuclear and Breton nationalist groups who have promised to do everything possible to stop its construction, whatever the outcome of the inquiry.

The commissioners say they reached their decision because only six per cent of the energy consumed in Brittany is generated in Brittany and because the area regional councils had agreed that Plogoff was the best site for the station.

The inquiry was boycotted

by the local may, bulk of the popu- Plogoff, and only subse- com- project.

The ecological s Rhone Alpes es lished a plan to f- care to buy up i- whir Guinter Mill site with 30,000 s- 100 francs (£10.4- pledged not to sel electricity utility.

Meanwhile, wor the damage cause- former fire at the treatment plant in near Cherbourg, in up because some- been slightly cont a result of retil- ment being shut i- the blaze.

## Local government waste can be reduced, group chairman says

By Our Local Government  
Correspondent

The public is so enchanted with local government in Britain, that it is not aware of the ability of local authorities to cut unnecessary expenditure, M. D. J. Miles, chairman of the National Association of Local Councils, said in London yesterday.

Mr Miles was addressing the annual conference of the association, which represents 240 local government councils in England and Wales. He said that the disbursement could only have a harmful effect on local councils as well as on the other parts of local government.

responsiveness to deny that waste existed. "We have frequently drawn attention to it and have suggested ways in which it could be considerably reduced if not eliminated entirely."

There is a government "col-... .. and puff when central resources are challenged as being a grave disservice to the public."

Mr Miles said that the annual conference of the association, which represents 240 local government councils in England and Wales, "It would be foolish and

Both central and local government were caught in the trap they helped to create—the trap of "bigness," Mr Miles suggested.

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The time was ripe for local councils to exert pressure in government circles to show how money could be saved, not necessarily by cutting services but by a sharing of services between authority and authority.

## Gaullists back Opposition in Poniatowski vote

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, April 17

The procedure of impeachment of M. Michel Poniatowski before the High Court of Justice was taken through the first of the many constitutional hurdles when the steering committee of the National Assembly decided today that the socialist resolution demanding it was receivable in form.

The Gaullist members of the committee voted for it with the Communists and Socialists against the Giscardians, with M. Jacques Chaban-Delmas, the President of the Assembly, abstaining.

The Communist resolution on the other hand, was rejected on the ground that it did not contain the requisite summary of the alleged offences.

The substance of the resolution must now be examined by a special committee of 15 members, elected in proportion to party strengths, to decide whether there are grounds for impeachment. If it decides that there are, each House of Parliament must concur by a two-thirds majority, and the strictly judicial phase of the case then begins.

The likelihood, however, of M. Poniatowski being brought for trial before the High Court is remote, even though the Gaullists have so far decided to support the opposition's insist-

ence that the former Minister of the Interior should be called to account for his handling of the investigation into the assassination of Prince Jean de Broglie.

M. Poniatowski announced yesterday that he would sue for libel both the Socialist and Communist parties and their 133 members who signed the resolutions for his impeachment, and demand substantial damages from them. If the steering committee of the assembly allowed them to go forward, this has now happened.

But he indicated he would take action only when Parliament was in recess, in July, and members could be sued for libel without a vote of Parliament to lift their immunity.

M. Poniatowski repeated today in a radio interview from Strasbourg, where he is attending the session of the European Parliament, that he was completely ignorant of the threat of assassination against Prince de Broglie.

"It is intolerable," he said, "to be accused unjustly, falsely, without a shadow of proof, of having withheld a document from the case file, of having had knowledge of the threats on the life of Jean de Broglie, and of having violated the judicial character of the proceedings."

## Widespread arrests in drive against terrorists

### Red Brigades may be on the run

From John Earle  
Rome, April 17

The feeling is growing that, three years after the murder of Aldo Moro, the Christian Democratic statesman, the back of the Red Brigades may have been broken.

Italian newspapers carry daily reports of the alleged defections of Patricia Peci, a 20-year-old woman, who is said to be one of the Red Brigades' leaders in Turin, who was arrested in February.

Apparently acting on what he said under questioning, over 40 arrests have been made in the last few days, mostly in north-west Italy, while the French police have made a further series of arrests.

In a dramatic show-out at the end of March, the carabinieri burst into a Genoa flat killing four people believed to be the brains of the Red Brigades in the city.

In Milan and Genoa, where the trials of two alleged terrorist leaders are going ahead, there has been none of the difficulty that there was two years ago in finding juries for such cases.

This change reflects in-

creased public confidence in the authorities, especially the carabinieri units of General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, whose undoubted successes suggest they may have got the Red Brigades on the run.

However, a sense of proportion is necessary. While the newspapers agree in maintaining that Signor Peci has given valuable first-hand information on the Moro kidnapping and murder, they do not agree in other details.

Discussions attributed to Signor Peci that arms were obtained from the Palestinians have brought a categorical denial from the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Strictly speaking disclosures about cases at this stage of an investigation are a violation of official secrecy and similar reports in the past have often proved to be exaggerated if not false.

One significant sign to emerge from the recent arrests is that the Red Brigades may be closer to the factory assembly line than to the university campus.

Among those detained is

Signor Domenico Jovine, one of 61 workers dismissed by Fiat, the Turin motor manufacturers, last autumn. He has publicly declared that he has long been an active Red Brigades member inside the plant. Of the four killed in the Genoa shooting, one was a Fiat shop steward.

In Milan, four of those arrested are technicians or former technicians employed by an electrical company. One of these is a local official of the non-communist UIL trade union. The brother of another, who has been arrested in central Italy works for the American multinational IBM at Ancona.

The unions have been shocked by suggestions of terrorist infiltration. They have always condemned violence verbally, and have rejected criticism in the past that they were not doing enough in practice to stamp it out.

The authorities admit that their success will always be partial as long as Signor Mario Moretti remains at large. Aged about 40, he has been seized since the Moro killing and is the most wanted man in Italy.

## Turkish envoy wounded in Rome shooting

Rome, April 17.—Armenian gunman, wounded the Turkish Ambassador to the Vatican and one of his bodyguards today in their ninth attack in Rome this year.

The ambassador, Mr Vecdi Tuerel, had just left his home in the fashionable Parioli quarter of the city and was driving with two bodyguards when the car came under sub-machine gun fire from three men hiding behind parked cars on the roadside.

Mr Tuerel, aged 63, was hit by two shots in the shoulder and chest. He was later reported to be in a satisfactory condition in hospital.

The bodyguard, who was hit in the face, was listed as seriously ill. Shortly after the shooting a telephone caller told news agency offices in the city that the attack was carried out by a group calling itself "Justice for Armenian Genocide."

Armenian groups have carried out eight previous attacks in the city this year, including the bombing of a Turkish Airlines office on March 10, in which two people were killed and a dozen others wounded.—UPI.

## Paris support for North-South dialogue

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, April 17

The four-day state visit to France of President Luis Herrera Campins of Venezuela ended as expected with a French promise to buy more Venezuelan oil. There was also a statement that the North-South dialogue was the essential way to avoid world confrontation and chaos.

President Herrera Campins had made that point on the world of the Round Commission in a speech earlier in the week and it remained the background theme to the meetings that he and his ministers held with their French counterparts.

France, which obtains only about 1 per cent of its annual oil requirement of 100 million tonnes from Venezuela, plans to double that amount next year. In addition, France is to provide technological help for

Venezuela to refine some of its heavier crude oil.

France's interest in Venezuelan oil stems from its concern over the stability of its Middle Eastern supplies. The visit of President Herrera Campins was seen as a way of forming a close relationship with the President of Opec as well as the leader of the Andean Pact countries.

The EEC is due to sign next month agreements with the Andean Pact in Brussels that would institutionalize the relations between the two areas. By its welcome to the Venezuelan President, France has sought to take the initiative of leadership on behalf of Europe before the signing.

Apart from the agreements reached over oil, France has undertaken a programme of wide-ranging technological aid to Venezuela, including rail and urban, satellite, telecommunications, agriculture,

petrochemicals, steel, aeronautics, mining, harbour develop-

ment, marine research and subsidized housing projects.

The French Government sees Venezuela as a bridge between the developed and Third World nations, and the technological agreements made between the two countries as a way of breaking down the sharp differences between wealthy and poor countries.

By enabling Venezuela to realize its natural wealth France hopes to be able to help Venezuela's poorer neighbours onto the path of economic stability.

In a speech before the European Parliament in Strasbourg this evening, President Herrera Campins underlined the importance of cooperation between the EEC and the Andean Pact to secure peace in the Andean area.

cooperate with France to pre-

serve the security of the Caribbean, and in particular Central America. Both countries recalled their attachment to the democratic principles and respect of human rights set out in United Nations resolutions.

Giving force to those words is an agreement to improve military cooperation between the two countries. Venezuela's forces are already equipped with French aircraft, tanks and guns. This week's cordial meetings have paved the way for further French arms sales.

The official communiqué emphasized the two nations' concern over the international arms race and on the tensions facing the world.

Both countries condemned "with the greatest firmness" the taking of diplomatic hostages and attacks against the freedom and dignity of diplo-

## Britain losing out on EEC science cash

By Frances Wright  
Science Editor

Scientists in British universities and polytechnics are largely unaware of the support available for advanced research through the European Commission. This is particularly important because research grants of £17m are likely soon to be allocated by the commission for a European biotechnology programme.

The scheme has to be approved by the Council of Ministers. But the type of work in genetic engineering and enzyme technology needed to ensure that European countries will be competitive with the United States and Japan in emerging science-based industries have already been identified by advisers to the commission.

Much of that research is in subjects such as molecular biology, microbiology and biochemistry, in which there are strong teams in Britain. Yet according to Professor Allen Bull, chairman of the British Coordinating Committee for Biotechnology, the lack of knowledge among research groups in the United Kingdom about the proposed programme is depressing.

Most of the learned societies of scientists, engineers and technologists are represented through this committee on the recently formed European Federation of Biotechnology. Thus there is good communication at an academic level between research workers in the various countries, but that is not reflected at an inter-governmental level.

Dr Peter Dumbell, of the department of chemical and biochemical engineering, University College, London, says there are difficulties in this new field stemming from a different organization of research and development in Britain compared with her neighbours.

## Super fungus blights crops

Fungus is blighting crops in the West Country. Some farmers have lost half their winter barley.

It is a strain of rhynchosporium and nests, normal chemical weedkillers which were sprayed last autumn.



Bicycle fun: The Most Rev Silvano Wani, Archbishop of Uganda, on one of 30 bicycles provided by the African Pastor Fund, based in Tulse Hill, London, for the Ugandan clergy, many of whom have large areas to cover. More than £7,000 has been raised and the fund's organizers hope to send another hundred cycles eventually.

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## German to expand trade in

From Patricia Clo-  
Bonn, April 17

Top East and West politicians today agreed two German states to exert a calming effect on the Afghanistans or Herr Helmut West German Ch- Herr Gunter Mill German top econ- also agreed to a West German trad- present intermar-

The meeting 1 Chancellor and Hei highest ranking Ea visit Bonn for 10 place and a glo- in East-West Ger- which has resisted able extent the pos- sible between the Western and comm

The East Ger- keep down dissa home coincides wi Germans' intense every opportunity, otherwise, to him halves of German gether.

The visit by He member of the Poli- close collaborator— successor— of He Honecker, the E leader is a consider- lent substitute, in stances, for the meeting between H and Herr Honecke

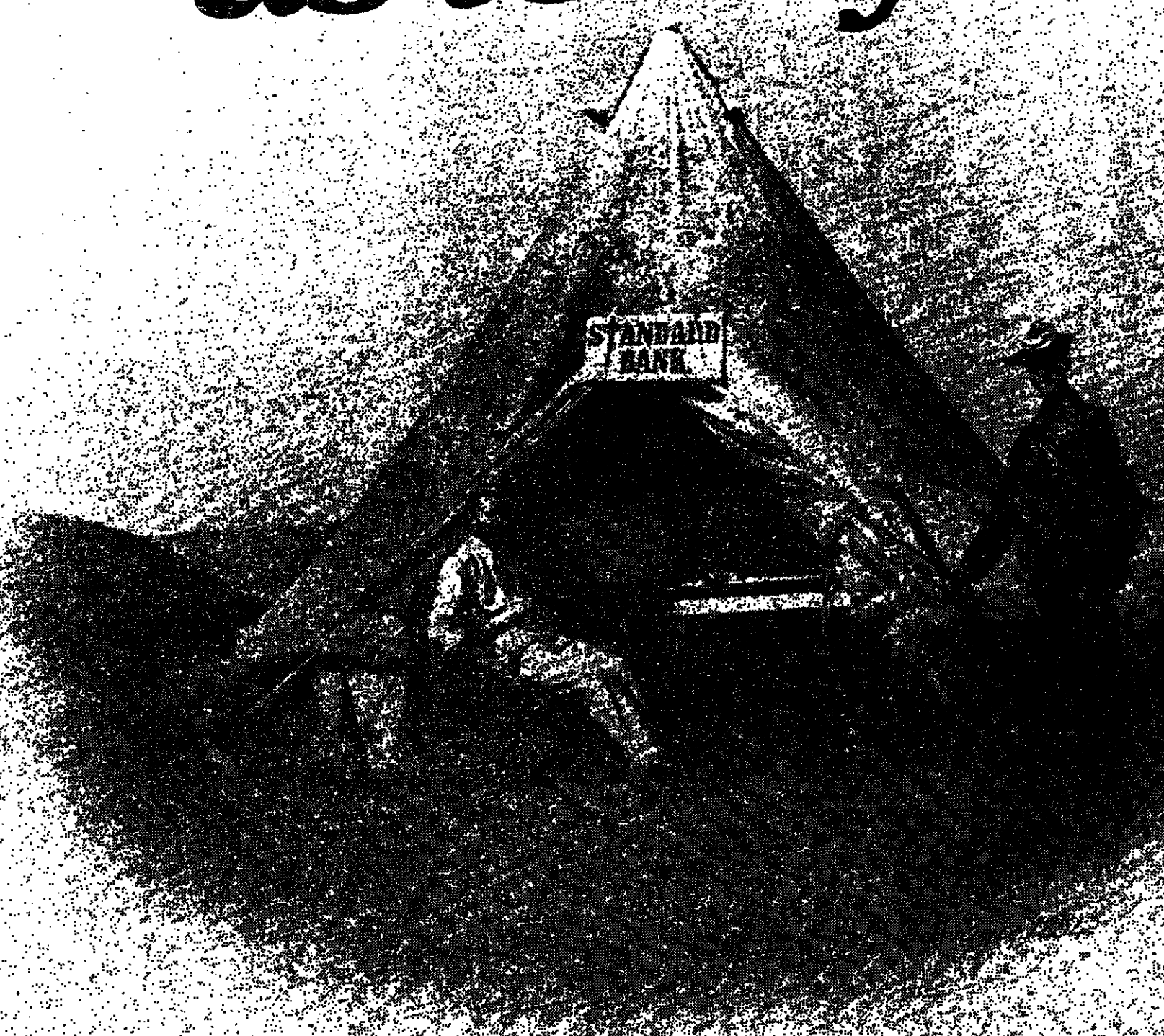
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## BRUCE OIL MANAGEMENT GAME

The finals of the "Bruce Oil Management Game" were held at Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology on Saturday 29th March. The game, a computerised simulated oil field development in the West Shetland Basin, was played by teams from the UK and overseas, from businesses, schools and further education.

The winning teams who made the most "profit" from the development of the field were:-

BUSINESS SECTION		Reserves
1st 'Getty Oil'	Getty Oil (Britain) Ltd., Guildford	£4175.63m
2nd 'Esso Research'	Esso Research Centre, Abingdon	£4173.35m
3rd 'Platform 10'	BP Oil Limited, London	£4171.98m
4th 'The Vikings'	Conoco North Sea Inc, London	£4147.02m
COLLEGE SECTION		
1st 'Proceag'	Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh	£4214.94m
2nd 'Seaoil'	University of Surrey, Guildford	£4025.37m
3rd 'Mast Oil'	University of Wales Institute of Science & Technology, Cardiff	£3987.14m
SCHOOL SECTION		
1st	South East Essex VI Form College	£4096.27m
2nd	Mintlaw School	£3970.92m
3rd	South Cheshire College, Crewe	£3958.43m

The main prize for the winning team of the business section is a visit to the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, USA, flying direct from the UK by British Caledonian Airways. The prizes were presented by the Chairman of the Government Committee of Enquiry into Offshore Safety, Dr. J. H. Burgoyne.

The game was devised by Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology in conjunction with 'The Press and Journal', Aberdeen, and presented in association with 'The Times', The Institute of Petroleum, and British Caledonian Airways.



## OVERSEAS

### Afghanistan proposes peace meeting with its neighbours

From Michael Binyon  
Moscow, April 17

The beleaguered Afghan Government today called for talks with Iran and Pakistan to normalise their relations, and put forward four other proposals which, it said, would ensure peace and security in the region.

Tass reported from Kabul that the central committee of the ruling pro-Soviet Democratic Party has issued the plan to coincide with the second anniversary of the April revolution. This brought the communists to power and provoked the bitter opposition of Muslim tribesmen.

Tass said the Afghan Government proposed calling, without any preliminary conditions, a conference to "normalise the situation in the region as a whole and draft a pact of peace, security and cooperation of the countries of the region".

It also called for talks by the governments of the region on "lowering the level of military spending, reduction of armaments and armed forces with appropriate international guarantees of security".

Two other measures included talks on how to reduce tension and ill-will in the region's media in order to create an atmosphere of confidence and mutual understanding, and regional consultations of countries on the Indian Ocean and Gulf zones to make the two seas a zone of peace with appropriate international guarantees.

Ever since the visit of Mr Shah Muhammad Dost, the Afghan Foreign Minister, to Moscow last month, Western diplomats here have been expecting the Russians to put forward some alternative political initiative to match those calls for neutralization and Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan which Moscow and Kabul have rejected.

The Afghan call is clearly an important attempt by Kabul to start negotiations going with the two countries most critical

of the Soviet intervention, both of which play important roles in the Islamic conference which has vigorously criticized the Russians and virtually excluded Afghanistan from any further participation.

The most striking feature of the five-point plan is that it constantly refers to countries "of the region" but does not make it clear whether China, a country bordering Afghanistan, would be included in any conference.

The plan also says nothing of the participation of the Afghan refugees now in Pakistan or of the Muslim rebels fighting the Kabul Government. The Russians would also certainly be strongly opposed to either groups taking part.

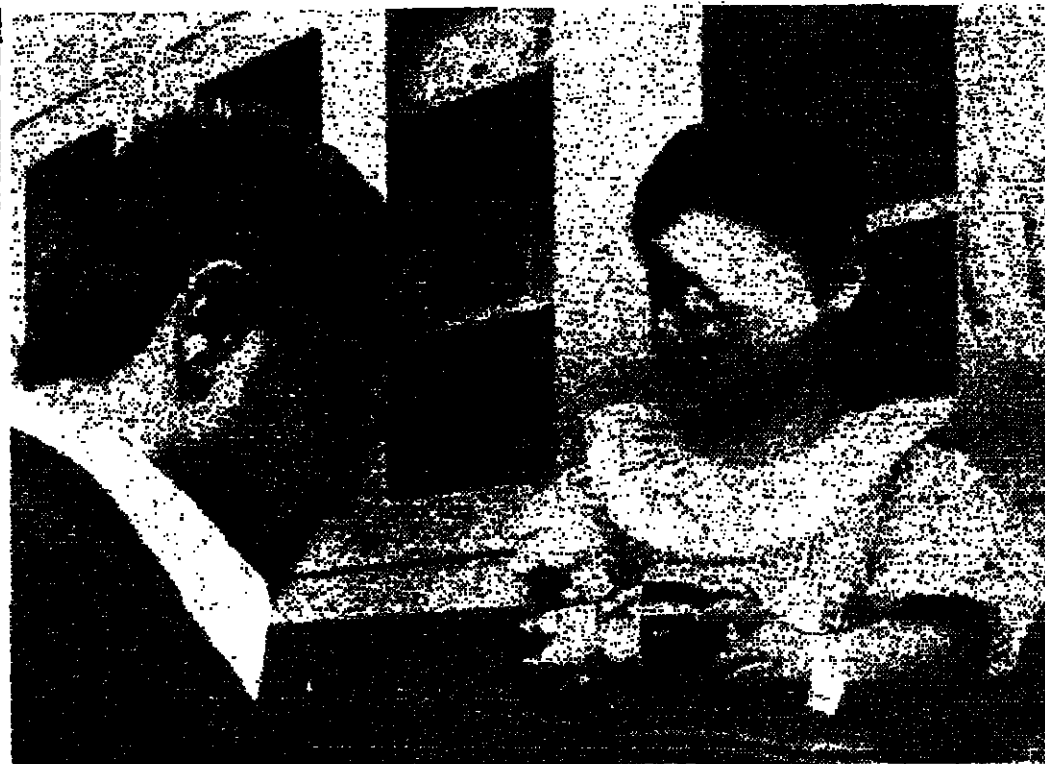
The offer is a tempting one for Pakistan in particular, since it specifically says that the proposed conference would be held without any preliminary conditions. President Zia has recently begun to make consiliatory overtures to the Russians.

The great value of any conference from Kabul's point of view is that by attending it both Pakistan and Iran would offer the Afghan Government de facto recognition.

The proposal to "reduce the level of military spending, armaments and armed forces" does not commit the Soviet Union to any withdrawal from Afghanistan while at the same time suggesting that Pakistan might negotiate about the amount of military aid it is receiving from China and the West.

Furthermore, the proposal does not define what it means by "appropriate international guarantees of security".

However, in spite of the vagueness of the plan, it is clear that the Afghans and the Russians are seeking a negotiated solution to the military and political crisis in the region, especially if it can be had on terms guaranteeing the objectives the Russians set themselves when they first went into Afghanistan.



Surgical tragedy: Nasreen Banu Khan, aged three, with her father in a New York hospital after suffering from a tragic medical error. Nasreen, from Hyderabad,

India, was operated on by an Indian surgeon to remove an eye affected by cancer. But the surgeon removed the wrong eye. Surgeons in New York had to remove the other eye.

### Nine remain split over US call for trade sanctions on Iran

From Michael Horasby  
Strasbourg, April 17

EEC member states are still deeply split over how to respond to American demands for trade sanctions against Iran despite last week's agreement at a meeting of the nine foreign ministers in Lisbon on the need to demonstrate solidarity with President Carter.

The initiative taken by the European Commission yesterday in announcing that the Rome Treaty could be used as a legal basis for imposing sanctions has irritated some member states. They see the Commission's move as an unwarranted attempt to bustle the Community into a decision.

A great deal of high pressure diplomacy will be needed over the next few days if differences are to be ironed out in time to enable the foreign ministers to meet in Luxembourg next week to discuss Iran.

In preparatory discussions among EEC representatives this week, the French have argued strongly against the imposition of sanctions, which they do not think will be effective in securing

the release of the American hostages. They are even more adamantly opposed to a rupture of diplomatic relations with Iran.

The West Germans who feel more closely dependent on American goodwill for their security than other member states, support the Commission in its view that trade sanctions could be imposed under Article 113 of the Rome Treaty. They insist that such action should be agreed next week.

The British have committed themselves to support President Carter and agree with the Germans that article 113 would be the appropriate legal instrument. However, Britain favours a two-stage approach whereby pressure would be gradually tightened on the Iranians.

In the first stage, collective commercial sanctions could be applied, coupled with restrictions on loans and credit and the cancellation of service contracts under negotiation. (There are, for example, plans for a contract between British Airways and Iran Air to service Iranian aircraft.) If this failed to secure the release of the American hostages within a specified time, the second stage would go into operation, leading to a full trade embargo and the breaking off of diplomatic links. It is not yet clear what support this two-phase approach has among other member states.

Besides France, other member states with serious doubts about the wisdom and efficacy of the action demanded of the EEC by President Carter are Ireland, Denmark and Italy. The Italians are particularly worried about the possibility of reprisals against the large number of their nationals—said to be about 1,800—living in Iran.

Decision carried: The European Parliament today carried a right-centre motion contemplating the suspension of diplomatic relations with Iran as part of a concerted EC policy. David Wood writes from Strasbourg.

The motion, which originated with British conservatives and attracted block support from the Christian Democrats and Liberals, was treated as urgent so that it could influence the decisions of the foreign ministers next week.

### Israeli Defence Minister calls for early election

From Christopher Walker  
Tel Aviv, April 17

At a time of uncertainty about the future of the Middle East peace process, Israel's turbulent internal politics have been thrown into confusion by an unexpected call from Mr Ezer Weizman, the Defence Minister, for early elections to save the country from its present malaise.

Mr Weizman's characteristically outspoken remarks were made in a live television interview last night and were apparently timed to secure maximum impact when Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, was absent in Washington. None of the interview was cleared in advance with the coalition Cabinet.

As well as calling for a general election well before November 1981 when the Government's term of office expires, Mr Weizman also hinted strongly that he might be willing to switch allegiance and serve in a future Labour administration. "I will do what is good for the people of Israel and good for me," he said.

Mr Weizman's criticism has inevitably revived speculation about the future of Mr Begin's shaky and divided coalition whose popularity has fallen to an all-time low in recent opinion polls. According to the polls, the Opposition would be sufficient to form Israel's first non-coalition Government if elections were held now.

Looking confident and relaxed, Mr Weizman told his surprised interviewers that he did not believe that the Government could improve on its present performance or that it was likely that it would run its full term. "The time has come for some serious soul-searching," he declared. "We have to jolt the people out of their depression and move ahead."

The Defence Minister also spoke out strongly in favour of the idea of introducing Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip before introducing it in

the West Bank. This suggestion has often been put forward by President Sadat of Egypt but is firmly opposed by Mr Begin.

Reports from Washington indicated that Mr Begin and his entourage were infuriated by the content and timing of Mr Weizman's attack, but the Israeli Prime Minister refused to comment on the remarks of his Herut Party colleague before his return to Israel tomorrow. He will then hold urgent consultations with the party's central committee.

Many Government supporters were quick to attack Mr Weizman, whose dovish views on settlements and other issues have earned him many enemies among hawks in and outside the Cabinet. Mr Yigal Hurvitz, the Finance Minister, said that Mr Weizman must draw the necessary conclusions from his criticism and resign.

Left-wing politicians warmly welcomed the interview and claimed that it added weight to the growing campaign for an early poll.

Although the interview has raised a question mark over the coalition's future, a number of political observers pointed out that the Government has shown resilience in surviving a number of potentially mortal blows, including last year's resignation of Mr Moshe Dayan.

In the indictment, announced yesterday, Mr Ragaa al-Araby, the Attorney-General, accused the group of forming an illegal Communist Party that called for a popular uprising against Mr Sadat and said it had branches in England, France and West Germany.

Leading article, page 17

### Export licence doubt for supply vessel

By John Huxley

Britain may decide to refuse an export licence for the 'Vesta', a supply ship bound for the Iranian port of the state-owned Swan Hunter yard at Wallsend. The ship is virtually complete, and Swan Hunter, as agents for the Iranian Government, applied to the Department of Trade for a licence three days ago.

Mr Thatcher confirmed in a parliamentary answer yesterday that no decision had been taken on whether to release the ship. The Iranians, it is understood, have nearly completed payment.

The Prime Minister said no arms or military equipment had been sent to the Iranians since the United States hostages were taken. That suggested to some MPs that no licence would be granted.

### American misgivings about Europe supported by polls

From David Cross  
Washington, April 17

An opinion poll in Britain, West Germany and France specially commissioned for The Washington Post tends to support the growing view of Americans that the allies want the benefits of a military strong United States but are unwilling to share the costs of defence.

The poll, which was conducted by the Gallup organization last month, was displayed prominently on the front page of the Post today under the headline "Europeans uneasy about US". The fact that it was commissioned at all reflects the growing irritation in this country about the lack of support in Western Europe for American policies towards Iran and Afghanistan.

The poll asked samples of about 1,000 people each in Britain, West Germany and France whether American military support was essential to their way of life or whether they could do without it.

### Huge cav fraud put Kremlin the spot

From Our Own Correspondent  
Moscow, April 17

Publication of this week's Financial Times of the great cav fraud scandal puts the Soviet Union in a difficult position. Should the story be ignored or admitted does publication in effect leadership in dealing with the scandal? It appears to be the economic crisis of the Second World War?

New people in Moscow that the story is corroborative evidence surfaced from a source. In brief, the Ministry of Fisheries arrested over the past involvement in the export to the West of the time market as being

Earnings were bank and large officials personal use on bank to the West.

Soviet sources say many people have lost this swindle for a years, but so far a word of it has appeared in the press. The Ministry of Fisheries has been referred about Ministry of Justice. Ministry has declined anything.

The scale of the fraud that investigation has almost two years.

Not only cav sin involved. Less than equally criminal have been carried out. Far East crews have with Japanese fish exchanged their money or luxury goods under investigation.

One reason why the corruption of lesser oil continually brought evidence of corruption higher levels, which has led back to itself.

Several questions by the affair which deeply embarrassing leadership. If the ramifications as it has been, it has no knowledge of it one body that regular to the leadership on of the life and mm Soviet population secret police.

Another question the Russians are deal with international supply ship Kiang, built for the Iran. The fact that it is a capital country Soviet Union is not of Interpol. Direct approaches on a question would seem to be a Minister of Fisheries forced to resign in last year after 14 minister and virtual time in the ministry have suffered a bear

His "retirement" of 73 was reported which also said in article that Mr Prime Minister, has ways of improving it with member ministry.

### Libyans show trials on television in drive against corrupt

From Michael Knipe  
Tripoli, April 17

The most compelling viewing on Libyan television at present is a nightly programme with the pungency that only real life drama can produce.

A man sits, in lonely prominence, in the centre of a large, crowded room slumped in a chair before a panel of three of his peers.

The man is sweating. He is plump and wearing the traditional robes of the Maghreb and is clearly in a state of unease. He looks shamefacedly at the floor as the panel, casually dressed in Western style, pour out a litany of accusations. He shifts uneasily in his seat as he makes an abject confession of the error of his ways.

The star of this real life production is Mr Badri Ali Hassan, until recently the national director of Libyan Arab Airlines and now appearing before a revolutionary tribunal accused of large-scale corruption—

accepting bribes and salting away funds abroad.

A videotape of the proceedings has been transmitted for an hour or so several nights this week. It is only the latest of a score or more of such programmes which are the public manifestation of an extensive government campaign against corruption.

The campaign has been in progress for the past two months and the accused include bank managers, immigration and customs officials, municipal administrators, contractors, prosperous businessmen, even security agents, and military officers up to the rank of colonel.

Libya is attempting to combine speedy material development, financed by its oil wealth, with the austerity of revolutionary socialism. Inevitably, the more questionable aspects of private enterprise—the kick-backs and profiteering—are clashing with the puritanical ideals of Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

The televised tribunals have been transmitted for their deterrent value and their impact has been considerable. Foreign businessmen, who swarm through Tripoli airport, report that an atmosphere of caution and apprehension, even plain fear, prevails among their Libyan associates.

"Nobody wants to be seen doing business with a foreigner," said one. "It is virtually impossible to get anyone to make a decision for fear they will be accused of taking a bribe."

It is difficult to put a figure on the number of people swept away in the purge. The estimate most frequently heard is about 300, but some believe it could be several thousands.

Government officials readily admit that the purge is extensive.

"In the Libyan Jamahiriya there is no government except that of the masses, so there is no way of telling," said one cheerfully.

It is generally agreed by government officials and foreign observers that those to suffer from the campaign are the new middle-class elements, many of whom were fortunate enough to make big profits during the first five years of the revolution. Many have been dismayed to find the revolutionary zeal continuing, and the official view is that many have slipped into bad ways and are getting no more than they deserve.

Directing the anti-corruption purge are Libya's amorphous revolutionary committees—shadowy bodies which, in the words of an official, can be formed by anyone "to incite the masses to exercise their authority or practise revolutionary supervision".

The revolutionary cadres, sitting as prosecutor-judges at the tribunals, are said to have been chosen carefully on the basis of their purity as revolutionaries. What of the justice they mete out? "The anti-corruption campaign is not concerned with condemning individual official informant. This is a condemnation of the phenomena of corruption which has still to be fought in the revolutionary I does not find local voicing disenchantment, cynicism, and some of servers see more sins to the present to believe that it may be by which the regime effectively with the elements, and there are tions that the campaign to make its full impact.

In recent speeches ment leaders are said referred to the need "final crushing" and "liquidation" of enemy regime.

Libyan officials smile ominous interpret a society such as our extreme actions are n sary." I was told. "Pi demnation is enough."























PARLIAMENT, April 17, 1980

## TUC day of action will do country nothing but harm

House of Commons  
The TUC's proposed day of action would do this country nothing but harm and further damage to the trade union movement, the Prime Minister said during questions.

Mr John Birtcher (Covenanter, South-West, C) asked: His Mrs Thatcher studied the article written by the general secretary of the electricians' union (Mr Frank Hapelle) which points out that the coming day of action is tantamount to a political strike which will damage the economy?

Has she noticed the growing number of trade unionists applying at this particular time who see it as an irresponsible act?

Mrs Thatcher—I have had a look at that excellent article. The author said democracy could not function if government policies were to be changed not through the ballot box but through the disruption of industry by political strikes.

It is clear the day of action will do this country nothing but harm and further damage to the trade union movement itself.

Mr Barry Jones (East Flint, Lab)—How many protests have been made against the Government in view of the bankruptcies and lengthening queues, will the Prime Minister abandon her policy of political strikes? (Conservative cheers.)

Does she want to divide Britain the industrial north against the prosperous south? In many parts of the country, as is shown by surveys the budget was welcomed and was regarded as fair. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Eric Cockeram (Ludlow, C)—Will the Prime Minister ensure that she supports the retention of the miners' money? Is it going to be taken away from them? (Conservative cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher—The cuts limits for British Leyland have been fixed. It is clear there are large numbers of British Leyland workers who wish to stay at work and who are urging their fellows to do so.

The management of British Leyland has coped extremely well with previous troubles and now and I have every confidence that they will do so again and that people will return to work. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition (Cardiff, South East, Lab)—If her Budget has been so

generally welcomed, how does she explain the report yesterday that business confidence is at its lowest ebb since records were first kept? (Labour cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher—Mr Callaghan frequently assails me with forecasts of gloom and doom or records of forecasts. He always ignores what is more important to people who gave their views on the Budget—that in this year the standard of living of the British people rose by the greatest margin in 20 years. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Callaghan—Does not the Prime Minister and the Government understand that we cannot tolerate a forecast by the Government that the country is going to decline through the lifetime of this Parliament? When is she going to alter this policy?

Mrs Thatcher—Mr Callaghan knows the gross domestic product is not wholly determined by manufacturing industry. I agree that we want a good manufacturing base. Manufacturing output will be likely to rise if we do not have as many strikes. (Labour interruptions and Conservative cheers.)

Mr Patrick Cormack (South West Staffordshire, C)—As Mr Callaghan is concerned about business confidence will the Prime Minister invite him to join in protesting against the day of action and to use such influence as he possesses to call off this particular character? Mrs Thatcher—I agree that the greatest shot in the arm to business confidence would be to see the Opposition would do more to condemn strikes.

Mr Callaghan—If Mrs Thatcher will consult the TUC at the same level and with the same regularity that she consults the various Labour Government, with the result that inflation was half the level 12 months ago as it is today, business confidence was higher, unemployment lower, and business investment much higher—if the Government will undertake to do this, I will be happy to support them. (Labour cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher—The last Labour Government had not the courage to take the right financial decisions and had to call the IMF in. It is a fact which Mr Callaghan tries to hide but cannot ignore that his Government's financial policy was the worst winter of discontent this country has ever seen. (Conservative cheers.)

## Shipbuilders in need of fresh orders

British shipbuilders must take advantage of the world improvement in order levels, Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Industry said when an order amending the previous order was made for the building of redundancy payments scheme was approved early today.

Mr Butler (Buxworth, C) said the improvement in order levels was welcome but the market was still difficult and uncertain.

Other countries (he said) are as anxious for 1980 as we are, and competition is, and will continue to be, fierce.

British shipbuilders' orders for 1979 were only about the same as for 1978, while Japanese new orders increased by 10 per cent and those for the rest of the EEC, excluding the United Kingdom, by over 70 per cent.

Developments are indicating an increasing share of the market.

Tanker rates had declined substantially since the end of 1979. Freight rates in the non-tanker market had remained fairly stable since mid-1979 but given the sort of growth rates one could expect for world seaborne trade in coming years it was unlikely that 1980 would see any great improvement in demand in this sector either.

Perhaps (he added) the best we can hope for in 1980 is that order levels will be about the same as for 1979. It will be some time before we see substantial and enduring improvements.

The Government wished to see a viable and flourishing merchant shipbuilding industry. But this could be achieved only if the industry obtained greatly improved levels of efficiency, and productivity.

British shipbuilders' current strategy, reached after full consultation with the unions, was to reduce the size of the merchant shipbuilding activities to a capacity of just over 400,000 compensated gross registered tons, with an employment of between 18,000 and 19,000. BS hoped to be able to reach their manpower targets by mid-1980 by a combination of transfers, wastage and voluntary redundancies.

Since mid-1979 there had been over 3,500 redundancies in merchant shipbuilding and as part of the recent broadly self-financing wage settlement a further 2,000 voluntary redundancies were being sought from BS, making a total of 5,500. The industry was still in a difficult position.

In spite of large capital investment which made it one of the most modern shipbuilding yards in Europe, Harland and Wolff of Belfast had won no new orders since July 1979. Mr Hugh Rossi, Minister of State for Industry, said that a similar order covering Northern Ireland was approved.

Mr Rossi said the painful truth was that the Harland and Wolff could satisfy potential customers that they could give them what they wanted they would not have any customers. This was a reality which the management and workers had to resolve for themselves.

There were six ships under construction, the last being due for delivery in 1981. There would be serious shortages of work if no new order was speedily obtained. A Government review of the industry was still continuing. Wednesday's sitting ended at 2.18 am today.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, C)—Will the Prime Minister at last act to rid the Clegg Commission of those who do more harm to Britain than even Moss Evans? (Laughter.)

Mrs Thatcher—The long term future of the Clegg Commission is under consideration. I stress that we are coming to the end of this round which was a hangover from the last Government.

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## Olympics body urged to review decision

The situation had changed since the British Olympic Committee took their last preliminary decision about going to Moscow, the Prime Minister said at question time.

Mrs Thatcher said it was changing in that the United States Olympic Committee had decided to advise its athletes not to go to Moscow and an increasing number of other governments were following that lead.

Many of our own people (she added) will wish to reconsider the decision.

She was replying to Mr Keith Best (Annesley, C) who had asked: Would Mrs Thatcher write a charming letter to Sir Denis Follows, not necessarily describing any part of his anatomy, but asking him to pay particular regard more to the wishes of the British electorate as expressed through their democratically elected representatives in the House rather than the wishes of the International Olympic Committee?

Mrs Thatcher said she was willing to do that if Mr Best thought it would help.

At the time (Worthing, C)—If we are considering economic sanctions against Iran, will the Prime Minister consider economic sanctions against Russia since the premature decision of the Olympic Committee not to boycott the Olympic Games is more likely to be caused by the Russian side than the Government is doing everything possible to deter Russian aggression in Afghanistan?

Mrs Thatcher—The economic sanctions against Iran will be considered at the meeting of Foreign Ministers on Monday and Tuesday. I do not think the Government is doing anything to deter Russian aggression in Afghanistan.

Mr Hugh Fraser (Stafford and Stoke, C)—The Iranian sanctions in view of the fact that so much of our oil is now conducted by television or press leak, would the Prime Minister consider sending the House early next week whether it be true or not that a deadline has been set for May 17, second round of negotiations today? This is a serious matter and the House should be kept informed.

Mrs Thatcher—I know of no such deadline. I am sure the House should be kept informed.

Mr Ian Blair (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab)—The statistics of the International Olympic Committee, which show that the Olympic Committee is violating the Olympic Charter by allowing the IOC to be literally dragging the British Olympic Committee into the International Olympic Committee.

Mrs Thatcher—The Olympic Games are based on the concept of peace and prosperity. I hardly think either of those will be satisfied at the present time.

The British Olympic Committee should reconsider their decision. I believe even those athletes who go to Moscow will be disappointed because athletes from so many countries will be absent.

Clegg awards a hangover from Labour

The Clegg commission pay awards were based on the concept of peace and prosperity. I hardly think either of those will be satisfied at the present time.

Mr Alan Bell (Berkshire, Twyford, Lab) had commented: Yesterday's Department of Employment figures showed pay rises over the 20 per cent level.

Will Mrs Thatcher continue to rely on high interest rates and public spending cuts, both of which are hindering the economy, and try to fight inflation with one arm tied behind her back or will she look again at her attitude to incomes policy?

Mrs Thatcher—The average earnings figure is too high from this year to last year. I hope we are coming to the end of this particular round.

At the end of every period of incomes policy there is an unwinding because the tactic used at the end of the period is to raise wages about three years is the same to refer claims to some commission.

We are getting through to the end of this particular round which has taken into account the fact that under Clegg which are partly a hangover from the previous administration.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, C)—Will the Prime Minister at last act to rid the Clegg Commission of those who do more harm to Britain than even Moss Evans? (Laughter.)

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## Curbing secondary action in disputes

In effect, the law as it stands is a licence to spread industrial action from one dispute to another, putting at risk the jobs and businesses of people who are in no way connected with the dispute, the Prime Minister said.

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Industry, said the Government could allow the law to remain in that state and that view must also apply to the Opposition.

Mr Prior (Lowestoft, C), who was moving a new clause dealing with secondary action, said it concerned one of the most damaging areas of conflict and urged employers, workers and the general public.

Secondary action, whatever form it took, whether a strike, lock-out, picketing or a combination of any of those, meant industrial action taken by employees who were not in dispute with their employers.

All too often in recent years secondary action had been used deliberately to spread the disruptive disputes of industry to the detriment of the general public. It had led to such public concern.

Without doubt, the most damaging form of secondary action was secondary picketing. With that, damage done to the business of a company with no connection with the employer in dispute.

Employees in firms far removed from the dispute were called upon to stop working and to accept certain losses. As a result, the production schedules of their firms were upset, orders lost and ultimately their jobs put at risk.

It was said that all this could be justified in terms of building up pressure on the employer in dispute to stop working and thereby threaten their own jobs.

More and more at the end of the day it was the public that was caught up in the cross-fire of secondary action. The more the public was aware of what was going on, the more they were likely to be angry.

When they pursued a dispute it was in their interests to retain the right to handle their own dispute. They would be no work to go back to if the confidence of employers, customers and suppliers had been destroyed in the process.

The willingness of society to

allow trade unionists to take industrial action of this kind was the normal civil law consequences was put at risk if this immunity was used recklessly and in a manner which offended or injured the general public.

There was a deep-seated trade union tradition of industrial action to prevent goods being supplied to or from an employer in dispute.

The new clause recognized this tradition where secondary action was employed because the primary action was only partially effective. But the clause withdrew immunity from secondary action if it was used only as a device to spread disruptive effects of industrial action beyond those actively supplying to or receiving goods from the supplier in dispute during the dispute.

The principle underlying the clause was that secondary action was justifiable only to the extent that it was used to put direct pressure on the employer in dispute for the settlement of the dispute.

Subsection 1 of the new clause stated that a person who induced a breach of contract in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute—someone who no longer had immunity if a contract was a commercial contract rather than a contract of employment and it was breached by unlawful secondary action.

Secondary action was defined as the inducement of a breach of a contract of employment with an employer in dispute. The clause did not apply to primary action.

If the employee was not employed by the employer in dispute, there was no immunity unless the secondary action met the requirements in Subsections 3, 4 and 5.

Subsection 3 held that secondary action was lawful only if its principle purpose was to put pressure on the employer in dispute and his supplier or customer and if it was justified in terms of building up pressure on the employer in dispute to stop working and thereby threaten their own jobs.

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## Mr Walker determined to end perversion of MCAs

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, gave an assurance that he was committed to correct the perversion of monetary compensatory amounts which were totally against Britain's interests.

Mr Walker (Worcester, C) said he would next meet his EEC counterparts at the Agriculture Council on April 22.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, Scot, Nat)—At that meeting, will he avoid repeating his recent surrender which added \$40m to the food bill? (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Walker—The second meeting is not my responsibility. I agree with his basic view that North Sea oil is British possession and should be used to the benefit of the British people. I have never expressed any other view.

I am sorry if he has been misled by totally misleading utterances and views expressed by correspondents who do not understand what is being done.

Mr John Bruce-Gardyne (Knaresborough, C)—Is there any further problem about the arrangements with the EEC with regard to MCAs, in that they are bound to increase the scale of our contributions to the Community budget at a time when we are trying to get them diminished?

Mr Walker—No. One of the problems of our contribution to the Community is that over the years in which we have been a member, our contributions have increased.

It is a result of our imports which results in our contributions to the Community and I regret that in these years of negative MCAs working against

British agriculture and our imports increased by £100m.

Mr Gavin Strang, an Opposition spokesman on agriculture (Edinburgh, East, Lab)—Does the Minister agree that the Government have imposed even higher taxes on imports of food into this country from the EEC—basic foods such as sugar, cheese, and milk—than those imposed by the Government?

Mr Walker—I have seldom heard such nonsense. The reality is that the Government have imposed lower taxes on food imports than the EEC. So the basic foodstuffs are cheaper in this country than in the EEC.

Mr Walker—The second meeting is not my responsibility. I agree with his basic view that North Sea oil is British possession and should be used to the benefit of the British people. I have never expressed any other view.

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## Too much negative union bias

Mr Eric Varley, chief Opposition spokesman on employment (Chesham, Lab) said the new clause represented a further incursion into the Government's anti-trade union legislation intended to reduce the bargaining power of workers through their trade unions.

What worries me (he said) is that the members and supporters of the Government can sit back and watch their hands of the unparalleled decline that is going to take place in our economic and industrial life over the next 12 months and concentrate so much of their legislative time and effort on this negative union bias.

When the Conservative Government was in power there were always more days lost from industrial disputes than when a Labour Government was in power. Under the tender ministrations of the Secretary of State for Employment (Mr Prior) there had been a record number of working days lost—5.5 million in the 11 months of the Conservative Government.

The belief (he said) that you can pass legislation of this kind and industrial relations are going to improve is a fallacy.

The clause attempted to lay down a legal definition of secondary industrial action. The Opposition's judgment was that it was potentially an extremely dangerous development. It meant new statutory tests of motives which individual actions would have to satisfy to attract immunity. It was a narrow formula which was not based on any principle that had never been tried before in English law.

It would place the question of the legality of industrial action entirely in the hands of the courts

and the judges. There was a new dictum: "Whoever loses under Tory industrial relations legislation loses under Labour industrial relations legislation."

The clause would lead to uncertainty about what action was lawful and what was not. The judgement of the clause was not clear. It put industrial disputes that arose in future.

The repeal Section 13 (3) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act would, in the Opposition's view, be a disaster. It would mean that the Government would be giving up new liabilities for trade union officials and members. It could be something of a time-bomb and could draw into consideration courts what had come to be described as primary industrial action.

The clause was carried through it would be easier for employers to obtain injunctions against working people involved in industrial action.

Failure to obey an injunction would be contempt of court and would be a criminal offence. It would be a fine or both. So far all injunctions, certainly over the past few years, had been obeyed by the trade union leaders. If they were not obeyed in future, it would be a disaster.

He hoped that the services of that obscure functionary the Official Solicitor would be required when this Bill became law. But he feared someone would end up in jail, scoring industrial relations all over again.

## Confidence in London police system

The decision of Lewisham Borough Council to attempt to withhold its Metropolitan Police precept next year was deplored by the Prime Minister.

Mrs Thatcher said: I express full confidence in Sir David McNee and the Metropolitan Police. What they need is support and not criticism.

She was replying to Sir Graham Page (Croydon, C) who had called for a condemnation of the decisions of Lewisham Council in an endeavour to control the actions of the police for a long time.

Mr Christopher Price (Lewisham, West, Lab)—It is utterly unreasonable.

able for ratepayers to be expected to pay for the police in London without having any say in it. They have in other parts of Britain.

Would it not be more equitable, if the Government wished to keep the police under complete control, to London, that it should pay for them itself out of taxation?

Mrs Thatcher—The system of police funding is a complex one. It is not a simple matter of ratepayers paying for the police. It is a matter of the Government paying for the police.

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# THE MORNING AFTER THE FLIGHT BEFORE.



Anyone who has spent around 20 hours in an aeroplane will know the  
It's rather like waking up with a double hangover.

And you leave the plane both looking and feeling like you haven't slept  
week. Which is no way to embark on any visit, be it business or pleasure.

Happily though, since April 2, you can fly to the Orient and still feel fit  
at the rising sun.

Because that's when we began our new twice weekly 747 service from  
in Gatwick to Bangkok and Manila.

Our new 747s are the only aircraft to offer first class passengers comfort-  
ds that are officially certified for occupancy during take off and landing.

Which means you don't have to get up in the middle of the night  
we refuel at Bahrain or discharge passengers at Bangkok.

Instead, you sleep undisturbed until it's time for early morning  
otherwise weary traveller will also be heartened to hear that our  
every bit as refreshing as our accommodation.

We serve "La Nouvelle Cuisine" in all classes and it has been judged by  
Gastronome, the Swiss gourmet society, to be the finest Airline food in

the world. And finally, when you arrive in Manila, refreshed and raring to go,  
our extensive network can whisk you direct to all the great commercial centres  
of the East and Australasia.

So now there's a way to the East that you needn't lose sleep over. After  
all, the last thing we want to do is make you feel like you need a day to recover.

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## W AND FREE ZIMBABWE

Years Britain has been embroiled in a rebellion against nominal rule, in reality a black-ruled state, ended at midnight, an African Government responsible for the destinies of the black people from the ruins of British rule. The new state is a black-ruled state, ended at midnight, an African Government responsible for the destinies of the black people from the ruins of British rule. The new state is a black-ruled state, ended at midnight, an African Government responsible for the destinies of the black people from the ruins of British rule.

For the Zimbabwe government, the story is beginning. Their concern is to maintain the integrity of the state, the conduct of the cease-fire, the elections and their outcome. The first hurdle is to meet the high expectations of the black people from the ruins of British rule. The new state is a black-ruled state, ended at midnight, an African Government responsible for the destinies of the black people from the ruins of British rule.

## DAVID REMAINS THE BEST HOPE

Left Washington is with President Carter, renewed commitment to the negotiations. While he has described the area as a "full autonomy", it is not clear that the area is a "full autonomy". It is not clear that the area is a "full autonomy". It is not clear that the area is a "full autonomy". It is not clear that the area is a "full autonomy".

It is the best that is expected, given the current situation. It is the best that is expected, given the current situation. It is the best that is expected, given the current situation. It is the best that is expected, given the current situation. It is the best that is expected, given the current situation.

Plans for the new building are well advanced. The new building is well advanced. The new building is well advanced. The new building is well advanced. The new building is well advanced. The new building is well advanced.

There is a significant new development in the market. There is a significant new development in the market. There is a significant new development in the market. There is a significant new development in the market. There is a significant new development in the market.

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son: not to get into the position vis-à-vis the strife-torn South Africa of some years ahead in which Dr Kaunda found himself vis-à-vis Ian Smith's Rhodesia. South Africa, the flywheel of central Africa, could have that dire role.

For South Africa this is a fearful day. The republic is now the only country in Africa where the black man is subordinate. It is isolated with its "peculiar institution" as was the Confederacy in 1860. It is not in the nature of human affairs that the black majority in South Africa can be kept in that inferior status alone in the human family.

An era has also ended for the Commonwealth. For fifteen years Britain's role vis-à-vis Rhodesia has been the dominant item on Commonwealth conference agendas: and even before UDI the process of decolonisation was the stuff of Commonwealth dialogue. Though often fierce it gave the association a real meaning.

long as they can when they think they will be defeated at the polls. Mr Begin will try to stay, hoping time will be on his side. But it is not on his side. If he hopes that by dragging his feet on autonomy he can avoid intolerable pressures from the United States because of the election campaign this is short term thinking. The pressure will increase if Mr Carter is re-elected. Meanwhile at home public dissatisfaction with his government is likely to grow if progress towards peace seems to be retarded because of his obduracy.

For the moment the readiness of all the parties to Camp David to persist in the negotiations is a positive factor which should not be underrated. While this situation prevails, the Community would be irresponsible to launch its own plan. It would only raise more hackles and incite more fears in Israel, leading to greater resistance, while encouraging more extreme demands of the Arab side. Camp David, with all its vagueness and deficiencies, still remains the best hope for a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Its signatories should be given time and every encouragement to continue talking.

London. Postwar development has lined much of it with a series of office blocks and multi-storey car parks, which are wholly unworthy of their magnificent position. The retention of Billingsgate market and the opening up of the wharf in front of it would provide Londoners with the best view of the river they have had in years.

Deadlock in Cyprus. From Mr Tim Eggar, MP for Enfield, North (Conservative). Sir, Your newspaper is to be commended for its article "The Cyprus Deadlock" (March 31). It contains many of the arguments that Friends of Cyprus has been seeking to present to the Foreign Secretary over the past few months. We are convinced that, had the British Government headed these arguments, the Secretary General of the United Nations would have been able to report to the General Assembly at the end of March that there had been progress in the intercommunal talks.

The fact is that NATO and the West has succeeded in alienating public opinion in Greece, in all sectors of society. It is felt that the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 was at least partially attributable to Western foreign policy, and that subsequently the West has made no efforts to persuade the Turkish Government to cease its illegal occupation of the island. This alienation must be increased when it is clear that the West does have considerable influence with Turkey: it is after all,

## Ulster and the Union

From Professor J. C. Beckett. Sir, Mr George C. Atfield's letter on Ulster and the Union in your issue of today (April 15) indicates clearly the one sensible approach to the present situation in Ireland. He is perfectly right in saying that the only way in which Ireland can move towards peaceful unity (and no other kind of unity is either practicable or desirable) is through a radical change in the attitude of the Government of the Republic.

From Mr J. Finch Powell, MP for Down, South (Official Unionist Party). Sir, In Mr Duggan's otherwise admirable letter in your issue of today (April 16) there is one point which may cause misunderstanding. He refers to "the decennial Border Poll". In fact there is no statutory obligation to hold any further poll; but if any such further poll is held, it must not be less than 10 years after the preceding one. This is very different from "decennial".

## Birth of Zimbabwe

From Mr Malcolm MacDonald, OVI. Sir, On the historic occasion of the birth of independent Zimbabwe I would like, in my capacity as President of the Royal Commonwealth Society, to pay tribute not only to the British Commonwealth but also to the role of the Commonwealth in the achievement of that supremely important and happy event.

Mrs Thatcher, Lord Carrington, Lord Soames and their British colleagues and helpers deserve extremely high praise for their courage, determination and wisdom in carrying through a course of action about which many people in this country felt grave doubts. Yet, notable as the British achievement was, we must recognise that without the influence and help of other governments in the Commonwealth the final result would not have been attained. At the Commonwealth Conference in Lusaka and through the whole succession of subsequent conferences, the achievement of the general election in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, the often quiet, behind-the-scenes contributions of a number of key Commonwealth leaders were crucial, as was the work of the Commonwealth Secretary-General and his staff. Also vital was the role of the team of Commonwealth observers in establishing beyond doubt in the eyes of other nations, all round the world, the freedom and fairness of the elections.

The Commonwealth, with its broad composition of 42 countries, has many more nations and peoples to its credit than are generally known and recognised. It is to be hoped that the emergence of the independent, friendly multi-racial state of Zimbabwe will make the name of this brotherly association of nations representing peoples of many different races much more widely appreciated.

## Effect of nuclear accidents

From Dr Brian Wade. Sir, On April 2 you published a story that there had been a substantial rise in infant deaths around Three Mile Island nuclear power station. This is a very serious allegation which must have caused concern among your readers. In view of the very small radiation doses to the population arising from the accident, any such effect would not be expected.

It is not therefore surprising that more detailed information now available in this country from Dr H. A. Mueller, Secretary of Health for Pennsylvania and Dr G. Tokuda, Director of Epidemiology at the State Health Department, shows that the story is erroneous, being based on statistical fluctuations in small numbers of deaths.

Dr Mueller has said that a preliminary report on the foetal and infant deaths within ten miles of Three Mile Island "shows no statistically significant difference in the mortality rate than for the state as a whole". Figures for the number of infant deaths in this area show 15.7 per 1,000 births in the six months after the accident compared with 14.4, 7.2 and 17.2 in the three preceding six month periods. Comparison with the State average figure of about 13.5 is complicated because the infant death rate in the town of Harrisburg is higher than average (about 20) due to its social class mix, and the whole of the town is included in the 10 mile data (although only a small part of the town is actually within 10 miles of the reactor). Similar data for stillbirths and abortions in the 10 mile area show 14.0 per 1,000 births in the six month period after the accident, compared with 19.9, 20.6 and 23.7 in the three preceding periods.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### American dilemma over Iran sanctions

From Lord Dacre of Glanton. Sir, Herr Schmidt, echoed by Mr Callaghan, has suggested that now, as in 1914, the nations are in danger of stumbling into a universally unwanted war. Whether they have accurately described the position in 1914 may be questioned, but I would like to draw a more recent and, I think, a less questionable parallel.

When Mussolini invaded Abyssinia, opinion in the West was rightly shocked and an avenue of nations voted to apply sanctions to Italy. Some people then believed that this was a mistake: that the real danger to peace came from Nazi Germany, and that it was politically imprudent to gratify our moral indignation by a step which might drive Mussolini into the arms of Hitler.

Similarly, I believe that sanctions will not rescue the American hostages: they will unite Iran behind the Ayatollah, and drive it into the arms of the real disturber of the peace, the USSR.

### One scholar to another

From the Master of Balliol College, Oxford. Sir, I am grateful to you for your sympathetic leader (April 15) about my exclusion from Czechoslovakia after giving a seminar in Prague to Dr Tomlin's group in Prague. There is just one small but important point which I would like to correct.

Civil Service union poll. From Mr N. B. Barnes. Sir, Reading Mr Levin's article "The civil way to run a union election" (April 15) has left me both confused and somewhat surprised at the high degree of misrepresentation it contained. Throughout it refers to "the Broad Left", making it appear to be the only politically motivated group within the Civil and Public Services Association. Many members find "the moderate state" (Mr Levin here omitting the use of capitals) equally distasteful in an association which exists to protect and promote the interests of its members.

Overseas students' fees. From the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Sir, While appreciating the present-day need for national economies, and that academic expenditure must be subject to the same control, I am concerned as to whether the long-term effect of increasing the fees charged to overseas students graduating in Britain to their own countries take with them much good will for this country. In economic terms this good will can often lead to these engineers looking to this country for British manufacturers, for consultancy services or for contracting work, and to the continued use of British publications, textbooks, computer programmes and technology.

Documentaries and history. From Mr L. P. Altman. Sir, Colonel Buckmaster (April 9) and John Fuller (April 15) have rendered further service by their letters concerning the screening of *A Man Called Intrepid*. Their letters are unlikely to reach the much larger and varied viewing audience. This is particularly so because there is a danger that this type of "dramatized documentary" will increase.

They may be regarded by the television companies and others as entertainment and suitable for export. However, they may well be interpreted in different ways now, and when repeated in future years and to wider and more varied viewers—to a significant number of whom this will be the only medium in which they are likely to gain any impression of historical events.

and the south (Central and South American states) to realize that some sort of confederation with the United States would be the best political and economic solution to establish a guaranteed and profitable market for their natural resources, thus making the whole American continent totally self-contained.

If (or when) that happens, it will be only a matter of time before Russia could and probably would take over the rest of Europe—without even firing a shot. And we would deserve everything we would get.

### Islamic codes of conduct

From Dr C. R. Bagley. Sir, The publication of the Universal Islamic Declaration (April 14) is welcome, for it is a clear statement of the principles of Islam which we may understand and evaluate the actions of Islamic nations and groups.

Two examples illustrate the gap between principle and practice (which, sadly, exists in all world religions). "The ideal of man's brotherhood seeks and finds its realization in Islam", one reads in the Declaration. Shortly after reading this I heard on the BBC that thousands of Shi'ite Muslims had been forced to flee from Iraq by their Sunni brethren.

anything but a holiday, but had we been left unmolested we should have spent Sunday and Monday seeing the many beauties of Prague which we have long wanted to visit. Our trip would have followed the normal pattern of our holidays: in the last ten years I have hardly ever taken a holiday which did not involve giving or listening to philosophical lectures and seminars. Philosophers commonly do not regard philosophy as a chore to be pursued only during official working hours.

political views, would make first-class representatives and conversely elect or re-elect some whose attendance at NEC meetings has been to say the least somewhat scant. One of Mr Levin's candidates failed to submit an election address, so anyone considering his name for a possible vote has no idea of what he stands for.

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## The promotion of racial harmony

From the Chairman, National Association for Asian Youth. Sir, In your editorial "The Wrong Structure" (April 11) you call for a fundamental re-examination of the structure and role of the Commission for Racial Equality. While you do make some very pertinent points, you fail to get to the heart of the matter.

The Commission exists for a limited and specific purpose, namely to combat racial discrimination and promote racial harmony. In order to achieve this objective it needs to undertake four sets of activities. First, it must monitor the existing situation by mounting strategic investigations, exposing subtle and crude discriminatory practices and assisting aggrieved individuals.

Without minimizing its achievements, it cannot be denied that the Commission's performance in these areas has been disappointing. Its written policy document took a long time to come and lacks coherence and focus. In such matters as the Sex Laws, the initiative came from outside it, and its response was slow and evasive. So far as strategic investigation is concerned, its targets have been virtually nil. Not surprisingly more and more people are writing off the Commission as a talking shop of turning to the streets.

The Commission's record is disappointing not because it is invested with contradictory functions as you suggest, for all the four functions listed earlier are integral components and cannot be separated, but for other reasons. First, the commissioners, chosen for ethnic and political balance and not their experience and commitment, have failed to provide leadership. Notwithstanding the general impression to the contrary, all but a couple of the five commissioners recently dropped made little impact on the communities they were supposed to serve.

Second, the Commission has lacked close contact with the ethnic minorities, especially the youth. Their participation in the formulation of its policies is extremely limited. Third, its internal administrative structure with its strange divisions of functions and departments is inherently ill-equipped for its basic objective, and finally the successive governments, which have never really been interested in ending racism, have severely restricted the Commission's capacity for action by denying it the necessary co-operation and resources.

If the Commission is to achieve its basic objective it should have a house in order and the government should give it the personnel, help and leadership it so badly needs.

Soviet cinema. From Mr Ian Christie. Sir, I am puzzled as to why *The Thin Red Line*, Correspondent, Mr David Robinson, has devoted so much of his review column on April 11 to a discussion of Soviet films which are not available in this country at present.

The old order. From Mr J. H. White. Sir, In your issue of April 12 you reported Mr Len Murray as saying that the proposed cuts in educational expenditure "would return schools to the thirties". May I remind him, through the courtesy of your columns, that in the thirties teachers' salaries were 10 per cent out in their meagre salaries—and no one took strike action.











## Stock Exchange Prices

## Oils active in quiet market

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, April 14. Dealings End, April 25. Contango Day, April 28. Settlement Day, May 6

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days



1979/80 High Low Company			1978/9 High Low Company			1977/8 High Low Company			1976/7 High Low Company			1975/6 High Low Company			1974/5 High Low Company			1973/4 High Low Company			1972/3 High Low Company			1971/2 High Low Company			1970/1 High Low Company			1969/0 High Low Company			1968/9 High Low Company			1967/8 High Low Company			1966/7 High Low Company			1965/6 High Low Company			1964/5 High Low Company			1963/4 High Low Company			1962/3 High Low Company			1961/2 High Low Company			1960/1 High Low Company			1959/0 High Low Company			1958/9 High Low Company			1957/8 High Low Company			1956/7 High Low Company			1955/6 High Low Company			1954/5 High Low Company			1953/4 High Low Company			1952/3 High Low Company			1951/2 High Low Company			1950/1 High Low Company			1949/0 High Low Company			1948/9 High Low Company			1947/8 High Low Company			1946/7 High Low Company			1945/6 High Low Company			1944/5 High Low Company			1943/4 High Low Company			1942/3 High Low Company			1941/2 High Low Company			1940/1 High Low Company			1939/0 High Low Company			1938/9 High Low Company			1937/8 High Low Company			1936/7 High Low Company			1935/6 High Low Company			1934/5 High Low Company			1933/4 High Low Company			1932/3 High Low Company			1931/2 High Low Company			1930/1 High Low Company			1929/0 High Low Company			1928/9 High Low Company			1927/8 High Low Company			1926/7 High Low Company			1925/6 High Low Company			1924/5 High Low Company			1923/4 High Low Company			1922/3 High Low Company			1921/2 High Low Company			1920/1 High Low Company			1919/0 High Low Company			1918/9 High Low Company			1917/8 High Low Company			1916/7 High Low Company			1915/6 High Low Company			1914/5 High Low Company			1913/4 High Low Company			1912/3 High Low Company			1911/2 High Low Company			1910/1 High Low Company			1909/0 High Low Company			1908/9 High Low Company			1907/8 High Low Company			1906/7 High Low Company			1905/6 High Low Company			1904/5 High Low Company			1903/4 High Low 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Company			1332/3 High Low Company			1331/2 High Low Company			1330/1 High Low Company			1329/0 High Low Company			1328/9 High Low Company			1327/8 High Low Company			1326/7 High Low Company			1325/6 High Low Company			1324/5 High Low Company			1323/4 High Low Company			1322/3 High Low Company			1321/2 High Low Company			1320/1 High Low Company			1319/0 High Low Company			1318/9 High Low Company			1317/8 High Low Company			1316/7 High Low Company			1315/6 High Low Company			1314/5 High Low Company			1313/4 High Low Company			1312/3 High Low Company			1311/2 High Low Company			1310/1 High Low Company			1309/0 High Low Company			1308/9 High Low Company			1307/8 High Low Company			1306/7 High Low Company			1305/6 High Low Company			1304/5 High Low Company			1303/4 High Low Company			1302/3 High Low Company			1301/2 High Low Company			1300/1 High Low Company			1299/0 High Low Company			1298/9 High Low Company			1297/8 High Low Company			1296/7 High Low Company			1295/6 High Low 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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

EXPERIENCE EXPERTISE  
AND TEAMWORK  
IN CONSTRUCTION  
TAYLOR  
WOODROW

### Stock markets

Ind 442.6, down 0.5  
Gilt 66.75, up 0.13

sterling  
2250, up 100 pts  
dex 73.1, up 0.3

dollar  
dex 88.7, down 0.3

gold  
115.5, down 518

money  
with sterling 171-171  
with Euro 5 171-171  
with Euro 5 161-161

N BRIEF

bonds  
p after  
ieving  
ord gains

phoria in the United  
nd markets came to an  
d but dramatic re-  
prices which followed  
y's 1 per cent prime  
by Chase Manhattan,  
y's third largest bank  
had their biggest over-  
gains, but when no  
ks followed Chase in  
their rates, buyers  
the surge had been  
Yields on United  
saurty bills dropped  
7 per cent to 11.67 per  
cent, the 111 per cent  
opened at 102 1/2 and  
of 108 1/2.

ballots call  
ler Goldsmith, direc-  
al of the Institute of  
yesterday called on  
ment to amend its  
nt Bill to allow 5  
of workers to obtain  
ballot from their  
starting or ending

vestment  
National Enterprise  
invested £30,000 in  
consumer products of  
hich makes electrical  
heaters and tradi-  
l effect fires.

etail shops  
ervice, the parts and  
n of the Lucas Group,  
up a national chain  
ies centres to cater  
growing do-it-your-  
replacement market.

sales up  
de textile traders  
nd start to 1980, with  
sales in seven of the  
2 lines. In women's  
blouses and skirts,  
ales were almost 30  
up on the same month

trade deficit  
and's trade deficit  
record 1,230m francs  
in March from 1,110m  
February and 335m  
last year.

resigns  
Antonio Occhipinti has  
as chairman of a two  
term public lending  
Credit and ICIPI,  
is told charges might  
it against him in con-  
the scandal at Ital-  
central institute of  
banks.

sales link  
the National Enter-  
office systems sub-  
has announced the  
of a new European  
partnership with  
aerner AB and Ter-  
urt to sell Xeros pro-  
s in the Nordic area,  
Switzerland and Aus-

it pricing  
Al Krali, Al Sabah,  
minister of Kuwait, said  
that the Organization  
sum Exporting (Com-  
ex) would definitely  
automatic systems for  
then ministers meet to  
their long term strategy  
Arabia in May.

## UK trade account shows sharp deterioration with £723m first quarter deficit

By David Blake  
Economics Editor

Britain had a deficit of £176m on its visible trade in March, £50m less than the previous month, but the underlying position of our trade account deteriorated sharply, being covered by a £200m improvement in invisible items such as trade in precious stones and silver.

During the first quarter of 1980 there was a £52m deficit of £723m, which after allowing for a surplus on invisibles is estimated to have resulted in a current account deficit of £573m.

The Treasury estimates that there will be a current account deficit of £735m for the year, pointing to very heavy deficits in the months ahead.

Industrial production fell slightly in February, partly because of the steel strike. It is thought that the underlying trend in output is flat, but a sharp deterioration is expected during the rest of the year. It is estimated that manufacturing output during 1980 will be 4.5 per cent below last year.

The March trade figures, taken on their own, are bad. The volume of British exports fell by 4 per cent after excluding erratic items, and all the main commodity groups experi-

enced a drop in volume. Imports, excluding erratic factors, rose slightly in volume.

However the decline came against an exceptionally favourable level during February and the Government feels it is fairer to look at the fact that the volume of exports in the first quarter was 2.5 per cent higher than in the last quarter of 1979. Quarterly figures are generally accepted by economists to give a better picture of the underlying trend than does monthly figures.

Quarterly statistics show that manufacturers increased the volume of their exports by 0.5 per cent over the last quarter of 1979 and finished manufacturers showed a 4 per cent growth.

Exporters have been doing particularly well in the European countries which are not members of the EEC and in North America, though the latter market is expected to slide back sharply after President Carter's recent tough package.

These export results have meant that balance of payments has been able to absorb a £300m drain in the short term as part of the speculation in movements of silver which took place in the early part of this year.

Nonetheless, it is an unimpressive picture for an economy benefiting from North

Sea oil. In March, oil exports equalled imports, compared with a £50m deficit in February.

Oil has been the driving force behind the improvement in the balance of payments, but it has to some extent been matched by a deterioration in the invisibles account because of the rapid rise in contributions to the EEC Budget. If the Government succeeds in cutting these it should reduce the current account deficit this year.

That will not give any direct help to industry, which is finding its world markets getting tougher. The unit value of exports rose by 4 1/2 per cent in the first quarter compared to a 7 1/2 per cent rise in the unit value of imports. In turn this led to a 3 per cent drop in the terms of trade index, which is sometimes used as a measure of competitiveness.

This measure is probably unreliable because companies which do not hold down their export prices are almost certainly being priced out of world markets. A better guide is the movement of unit labour costs, which are rising very sharply, thus eating into profits.

The effect on industry is beginning to be seen in some sectors, notably textiles, whose output has dropped by 10 per cent over the past year.

Table, page 26



Dr Pearce: "Timing will be determined by a variety of factors."

## Aerospace shares to be floated soon

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

Shares in British Aerospace, the denationalized version of the 100 per cent government-owned corporation, are likely to be floated soon, Dr Austin Pearce, the chairman, indicated yesterday.

Dr Pearce, discussing the corporation's accounts and report in London, said: "We are working closely with the Government and have set up a small board committee to ensure that the flotation is a success, and is made with the right data at the right time."

"The exact timing will be determined by a variety of factors—interest rates, the rate of inflation, the situation of the world economy, the stock market, and so on."

"I personally believe it will not be wise to determine the date of the flotation too far in advance when the world economic situation is changing so rapidly."

The British Aerospace Bill, which gives the power to offer shares in the company to the public, is in its final stages in Parliament and is expected to receive the royal assent next month.

British Aerospace's accounts for 1979 showed a trading profit of £90m, compared with £79m in 1978, and a profit after taxation of £41m against £30m in 1978. Sales totalled £1,027m (£894m in 1978), of which £576m were for export contracts, with £467m in 1978. Assets employed were shown as £443m (£326m in 1978) and orders on hand totalled £3,290m (£2,951m in 1978).

A charge of £39m (£11m in 1978) had been made against trading profits for the launching costs of new civil aircraft projects.

All launching costs incurred on the 146 70-100 seater airliner, which will seat between 100 and 100, is being developed, had been written off to the end of 1979. £50m had been spent between 1977 and 1979.

## Swiss move towards international franc

From Peter Norman  
Bern, April 17

The Swiss National Bank today announced another small step towards internationalizing the Swiss franc.

A national bank spokesman in Zurich said that foreign central banks and monetary authorities would be able to tender for the Swiss Confederation's next offering of short-term money market debt.

Prospectus for the issue will be published tomorrow. It is understood that the Swiss government is seeking to raise around 200m francs (about £52m) by offering claims on a debt register at a discount that will be redeemed after three months.

Tomorrow's offering will be the seventh monthly issue of

short-term debt made by the Swiss Confederation. All previous issues have been barred to foreign investors, but a deliberate exception has been made this time in the case of central banks and monetary authorities.

The Swiss have been moving cautiously since deciding to allow foreign investors to subscribe to franc denominated loans and the latest step is no exception to this rule. Qualified financial sources in Zurich said it would be wrong to equate this step with large borrowings made by Germany and Japan from the Saudis.

Terms for the issue will be fixed on Tuesday when an indication will be given as to the level of interest by foreign investors.

## Sterling stronger

The dollar drifted lower in this trading in Europe yesterday but staged a late recovery to end the day above its worst level.

Sterling gained a cent to close at \$2.225, the pound's effective exchange rate index rose by 0.3 percentage points to close at 73.1 per cent of its 1971 level.

The dominant feature in the European markets was the

trend in Eurodollar interest rates, which began the day showing signs of dropping in sympathy with the decision on Wednesday by Chase Manhattan Bank to cut its prime rate to 13 1/2 per cent.

The Eurodollar rates provide European dealers with the best indication of what is likely to happen in the ordinary American dollar interest rate market.

## Finance Bill

## Encouragement the keynote

The Finance Bill published yesterday is a ragbag of the many small measures, which characterized one of the longest Budget speeches on record. It contains little, if anything, which is new but crosses the T's and dots the I's on a plethora of detailed changes to existing tax law.

The overall tone, however, is one of encouragement, particularly where self-help is involved. Maintenance funds for the national heritage, for example, receive beneficial treatment as the Finance Bill points out: it is easier to give to charity than it was before. And small businesses, if not smothered with loving care, are certainly given some fiscal encouragement.

Although tax lawyers and advisers will already be going through the Finance Bill with a fine tooth comb to look for possible loopholes in the proposed legislation, the Inland Revenue itself has taken advantage of the opportunity to plug existing gaps in tax law which are available to the opportunistic.

seeks to block a notorious escape route from development land tax. The wording of the previous legislation enables the tax to be levied on connected party deals only when it was for "a consideration". Sharp-eyed practitioners had found a way round this by passing land around at no cost, or consideration. The new Bill seeks to forestall this particular brand of tax avoidance by inclusion of the words "for no consideration".

But the Revenue's hardline approach to those who are well versed in the arts of tax evasion (from avoidance which is legal and evasion which is not) is softened in respect of the remaining bulk of law-abiding taxpayers.

In deference to the recommendations of the Select Committee on Taxation it has extended by five months the due

date for payment of income tax (other than basic rate tax) from July 6 to December 1 following the year in which it is assessed.

Another improvement, emanating from the same source, concerns the remissions of interest in unpaid tax. Previously the Inland Revenue waived interest owing on unpaid tax when it amounted to £10. In future the remission level will be fixed at £30.

Other non-Budget measures in the Finance Bill include the final severance of the Trustee Savings Bank from National Savings. Clause 55 withdraws the tax exemption from the first £70 of ordinary deposit interest as of last November.

As a result of changes proposed in the Budget and Finance Bill the Inland Revenue staff requirement will be reduced by about 600 man years in 1980-81 and by over 1,300 in 1981-82. The abolition of the lower-rate tax band accounts for most of the manpower reduction. The staffing effect on Customs and Excise, however, is expected to be neutral.

## Redundancy deduction

Clause 40 provides a deduction in computing profits for redundancy payments made in addition to those required under the law for business which is ceasing to trade.

The deduction can be three times the amount of the statutory redundancy payment.

## Oil costs offset

Oil companies buying into an offshore oil and gas exploration licence will in future be able to offset costs incurred by the seller against assessment for petroleum revenue tax (PRT). The change was sought by the oil industry.

At present tax relief for expenditure on an offshore field can be lost when an interest is transferred from one company to another.

This can act as a brake on transfer of licences. If small companies cannot sell off licences on which they have good prospects but which need heavy expenditure, exploration can be held back.

The Bill also allows a greater proportion of costs needed to separate gas out of crude oil delivered onshore to be offset against PRT.

## Goods vehicles hard hit

Car owner who choose to tax their vehicles for periods of six months instead of 12 will be paying an additional £6 a year.

From October 1 this year, short period licences will be extended from four to six months. The annual excise duty has been increased from £50 to £60 for cars. The extra sum payable on short period licences is 10 per cent of the annual figure, the same proportion that has been imposed previously.

## Talks today after pay dispute at NatWest clogs banking system

By David Felton  
Labour Reporter

An urgent meeting has been arranged this morning to seek a solution to the pay dispute which yesterday severely disrupted banking operations throughout the country, blocking transactions worth millions of pounds.

The talks are to be held between National Westminster Bank and the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union who agreed "as a gesture of good will" to start again after the action last night.

Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of BIFU, gave a warning that if today's meeting did not find a solution, the action strike by about 4,000 bank employees would start again next week and would be intensified.

The dispute started at the beginning of this month over the pay of 68 messengers employed by NatWest. A strike at NatWest on Tuesday rapidly spread until yesterday all five of the main clearing banks were affected.

Most of the four million cheques a day which are usually cleared by the banks were tied up because van delivery drivers

who belong to the Transport and General Workers' Union, were refusing to cross BIFU's picket lines.

Pickets were mounted outside many of the crucial banking houses in the City, including the Bank of England, and also at cash centres in the provinces including Midland Bank's offices in Sheffield and NatWest's main distribution centre at Stock Mandeville Bucks.

The banks said last night that the strike had slowed down the whole banking system. "Payments by cheque, including wages and salaries, and the transmission of other items will be delayed, but the banks are taking all possible measures to minimize these delays," a statement said.

Branches of the banks were helping each other through special local arrangements aimed at maintaining services to customers, and the banks said that exporters, tourists and other travellers were able to obtain foreign currencies and travellers' cheques.

Mr Tom McWilliam, deputy chief executive of NatWest said the dispute was seen as an attempt to influence the general pay claim for 200,000 bank

clerical staff which is under discussion.

An emergency meeting of BIFU's executive yesterday rejected the employers' "final" offer, which amounts to an average 19 per cent and instructed Mr Mills to seek a further meeting if the offer can be improved.

Mr Mills conceded that improved pay for the messengers would inevitably have a knock-on effect on the pay of other bank employees, but he said the dispute was aimed solely at getting NatWest to improve its offer.

The union is claiming parity for its messengers with 60 unskilled maintenance workers who have won a new minimum salary of £3,750. The bank agreed to apply the minimum to messengers over the age of 30. BIFU wants the increase for all messengers over 21, and the 68 employees fall into this age group.

Mr Mills said: "The bank has been prepared to allow this considerable and severe disruption taking place in the British banking system over £23,000, which is all it would cost to pay the 68 messengers. The ball is now firmly in their court and it is up to them to come forward with a positive offer."

## British Shipbuilders seeks more state aid

By John Huxley

British Shipbuilders is shortly to hold talks with the Government about a substantial capital investment for restructuring its marine engine and general engineering activities on the north-east coast.

The implications of further large-scale investment will be scrutinized carefully by MPs and Department of Industry officials because losses last year are expected to have been only narrowly within the £100m limit imposed by the Government.

In recent evidence to a parliamentary select committee, British Shipbuilders' executives argued that the lack of investment put them at a disadvantage in competing against overseas firms for orders.

Last year British Shipbuilders used only about half of the £48m set aside for investment. Restructuring plans, outlined to shipbuilding and engineering union representatives in Newcastle yesterday, are expected to involve about 700 redundancies.

The changes, which have not yet been approved by British Shipbuilders' board, will affect Doxford Engines at Sunderland, and the Clark Hawthorn in the Tyne, Wear and at

Hartlepool. They were designed to reduce losses and overhead costs in the face of the present financial difficulties of the corporation, a BS statement said.

It is intended to end production of the Doxford engine on the Wear. North-east production will be concentrated on the Tyne and Wear, with Sulzer and Stork Workshop engines.

Investment will be directed at modernizing the Northumberland engine works of Clark Hawthorn at Wallsend, where a "significant increase in employment levels" is expected.

British Shipbuilders said last night that no compulsory redundancies would be declared until absolutely necessary, but it intends to cut the present 750 workforce at Doxford Engines to 250 by September, with the opportunity for up to 80 men to transfer to Clark Hawthorn.

The present workload was absorbing only about half of the workforce of 420 at its Hartlepool works, the corporation said. About 220 jobs would therefore be shed in coming months and a further review would take place in September, but the management was confident that orders could be won to sustain a reduced workforce of about 200.

## British Vita expansion

The chairman of British Vita says that the company will be looking for suitable opportunities to further broaden and strengthen its manufacturing base while guarding cash flow

and bearing in mind company's gearing.

The capital expenditure programme embarked upon last year to up-date United Kingdom assets is well advanced and will be concluded as planned.

## Growth of money supply near target

Continued from page 1

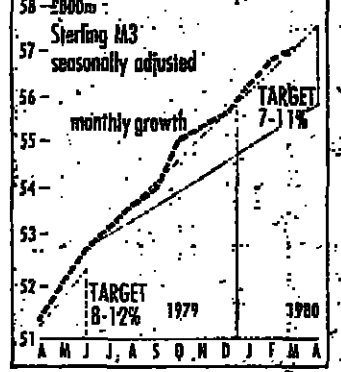
How quickly United States reserves can come down remains to be seen.

Assuming that all these conditions are met, the British Government may be able to give its monetary policy a new lease of life. The minimum lending rate (MLR) before too long. But it would be surprising if the Government did not give some consideration to trends in pay awards before thinking of interest rate cuts. A few economists are worried that some parts of the corporate sector may temporarily be able to turn pay awards by running down stocks, but will then find themselves under severe financial strain once they find that underlying demand has fallen away too.

Yesterday morning's offer of £1,000m nominal of Treasury 131 per cent 2004-08 was, as expected, oversubscribed on application. Because the stock has been issued in partly paid form this will only bring in £200m initially. But a further £300m will fall due in the present banking month and the balance of more than £450m is assured for the June banking month.

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## Nissan to build truck plant in US

From Peter Hill  
Tokyo, April 27  
Japan's second largest motor manufacturing group, Nissan, announced plans here today to build a plant in the United States for the assembly of small trucks.

The announcement came soon after Mr Masayoshi Ohira, the Prime Minister, had indicated that he did not expect the sensitive issue of Japan's vehicle exports to the United States to be a major issue in his talks with President Carter early next month. Mr Ohira said that good progress had been made in recent months at industry and government level in improving mutual understanding.

Mr Takashi Ishihara, president of Nissan told a press conference that the proposed plant would be designed to produce Datsun pickup trucks at a rate of 10,000 units a month. Total investment would be about \$300m (about £138m).

The plant would employ about 2,500 people. Honda is already building a plant in the United States and Toyota is beginning a major feasibility study into a possible location for a car plant in the United States. The Nissan announcement is a further demonstration of what Mr Ohira termed Japan's "concrete response".

He said that both sides had agreed that the problem would not be resolved by import or export restraints but rather by the making of new trade agreements. On the issue of Japanese exports to the United States, the Prime Minister added: "I do not think I need be reproached if this topic is not taken up at the meeting in Washington."

## ORANGE FREE STATE GOLD MINING COMPANIES ADMINISTERED BY ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION INTERIM DIVIDENDS—FINANCIAL YEARS ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1980

On 17th April, 1980 dividends were declared in South African currency, payable to shareholders registered in the books of the undermentioned companies at the close of business on 2nd May 1980. Resident members may elect to have their dividends paid in sterling, subject to the usual conditions of payment.

The transfer registers and registers of members will be closed in each case from 3rd May to 10th May 1980, both days inclusive, and warrants will be posted from the Johannesburg and United Kingdom offices of the transfer secretaries on or about 30th May 1980. Resident members from the United Kingdom will receive the United Kingdom currency equivalent of 27th May 1980, at the rate of 1 South African Rand to 1.50 Sterling. Any such members may, however, elect to be paid in South African currency, provided that the request is received at the offices of the transfer secretaries in Johannesburg or in the United Kingdom on or before 2nd May 1980.

Holders of share certificates are notified that the dividends are payable on or after 2nd May 1980, upon presentation of the respective share certificates to the offices of the transfer secretaries at the following addresses: Anglo American Corporation, 40 Bank Street, Johannesburg, South Africa; Anglo American Corporation, 40 Bank Street, Johannesburg, South Africa; Anglo American Corporation, 40 Bank Street, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Dividends of shareholders in respect of coupons marked "South Africa" may, at the request of the depositors, be converted through an authorized dealer in exchange in the Republic of South Africa into any currency. The effective date of conversion is the date of conversion into such currency will be that prevailing at the time the proceeds of the dividends are deposited with the authorized dealer in exchange.

The effective rate of non-resident shareholders' tax for all the undermentioned companies is 1 1/2 per cent.

Name of Company (each of which is incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)	Dividend No.	Coupons marked "South Africa"	Rate of dividend per share/unit of stock
Free State Gold Mining Limited	46	47	475 cents
President Brand Gold Mining Company Limited	50	52	320 cents
President Steyn Gold Mining Company Limited	30	31	280 cents
Welkom Gold Mining Company Limited	46	47	130 cents
Western Holdings Limited	50	52	675 cents

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED  
By order of the Board  
Secretaries  
Mr R. S. Edmonds  
Companies Secretary  
Head Office  
40 Bank Street  
Johannesburg  
2001  
(P.O. Box 1031)  
Johannesburg  
2107  
Charger Consolidated Limited  
P.O. Box 1031  
Johannesburg  
2107  
Charger House  
Park Street  
Johannesburg  
2107  
Johannesburg  
18th April, 1980

## PRICE CHANGES

10p to 720p	Steel Bros	10p to 127p
10p to 304p	Sun Alliance	7p to 579p
12p to 725p	Ultramar	14p to 580p
10p to 731p	Unit 2	10p to 301p
8p to 487p	Weeks Petrol	15p to 350p

8p to 385p	Guthrie Corp	52p to 763p
7p to 215p	Kalamazoo	4p to 68p
2p to 34p	Rio Tinto Zinc	5p to 373p
5p to 379p	Shaw Carrels	22p to 349p
6p to 48p	W Rand Corp	12c to 638c

## THE POUND

Bank	Bank	
buy	sell	
2.07	2.00	Norway Kr
30.75	29.00	Portugal Esc
70.75	67.25	S Africa Rd
2.66	2.59	Spain Pta
13.27	12.72	Sweden Kr
8.74	8.34	Switzerland l
9.82	9.42	US \$
4.30	4.08	Yugoslavia D
82.00	88.00	
11.30	10.85	Rates for sm
1.13	1.09	notes only, a
1995.00	1900.00	Barclays' Ban
575.00	550.00	Different rates
Gda 4.71	4.48	cheques and
		business.







ments from the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission give insight to events behind the silver collapse

# The Hunt brothers campaigned against extension of margin restrictions

April 17—Mr. Nelson Hunt and Mr. W. Herbert Hunt since last autumn to dissuade the agency that oversees the silver market from tightening regulations in the face of rising silver prices.

Some of those discussions are in documents written by officials, commodities, Futures Trading Commission, the agency that oversees the silver market, in S. Rosenthal, chairman of the committee on commerce, monetary affairs, which is the silver market's recent

cy memoranda, also show that Hunt Jr., one of the four made repeated calls, beginning in 1978, to officials at other federal agencies, including the Treasury and the

Federal Reserve Board, to discuss the silver market and to solicit their views on the developments.

A memorandum written by Mr. Dunn, dated April 9, states: "The only person from either agency who ever expressed concern about the silver market was Robert Carswell." The memo said that Mr. Carswell, deputy secretary of the Treasury, called on March 31 after silver prices had plunged. Mr. Carswell could not be reached for comment.

According to the trading commission's memoranda, one or the other of the Hunt brothers made the following points to the commission in meetings and telephone conversations between October and January.

1. Margin requirements, the amount of money necessary to buy or sell a commodity contract in silver on a commodity exchange, were too high.

2. The Hunts said they hoped that no

limits or other artificial restraints would be imposed on the market, particularly not before the first of the year.

3. The Hunts said they would incur a substantial loss on their transactions if they had to liquidate their positions before last January 1 to fall within limits on positions held by investors.

4. They claimed they had played no part in the rise in silver prices in Autumn 1979. Mr. W. Herbert Hunt said on November 7 that his futures trading position was no larger than the positions he had held consistently since 1973, and was actually half as large as the positions he sometimes held.

5. The Hunts said they traded their futures contracts independently of each other. There is no indication that the Hunts intended the commission's decisions on the silver futures markets. In fact, commissioners repeatedly expressed their concern during these same months that a

few larger investors were creating problems in the market.

When the silver commodity exchanges subsequently imposed higher margins and set limits on positions investors could hold, the commission did not oppose these moves. Some commissioners encouraged moves that the Hunts had argued against.

The Hunts told the commission that such moves were unfair and worked to the advantage of exchange members and against themselves.

One of the issues now being examined by Mr. Rosenthal and other government officials is whether the futures commission maintained adequate monitoring of the silver market in recent months and whether it took sufficient steps to prevent possible problems.

Yesterday a federal official close to one of the investigations said that the description of Mr. Dunn's appeals to other government agencies was overstated and

was an attempt by the commission to protect itself.

The present investigations were spurred by the sudden and rapid plunge in silver prices from a high of just more than \$55 (£25) an ounce in January to \$10.80 an ounce in late March, which left the Hunts scrambling for hundreds of millions of dollars to cover their losses in the silver market.

Despite the Hunts' initial difficulties in raising funds quickly, they have subsequently paid off many of their losses in cash, silver or oil and gas properties they owned.

According to commission memoranda Mr. Nelson Bunker Hunt told Mr. Dunn and several staff members at a meeting on October 25 that one of the biggest problems in the market was that margin requirements were too high.

Mr. James M. Stone, the chairman of the futures commission, said recently that

he would like the commission to have the power of setting minimum requirements for margins.

According to a November 9 memorandum from a commission staff member, Mr. W. Herbert Hunt complained in a meeting he called that margin requirements had risen so high that he no longer made economic sense to use the futures markets. The Hunts said they usually had opted to use the futures market instead of the cash market, because they found it easier to deal in the large volume transactions in futures.

When the Chicago Board of Trade first considered such restrictions, Mr. W. Herbert Hunt complained to Mr. Dunn that if the limits were imposed he would be forced to liquidate some of his holdings at a loss, particularly if they were imposed before the new tax year began on January 1.—New York Times News Service.

## Group Gold Mining Companies Orange Free State

Reports of the directors for the quarter ended 31st March, 1980

### STATE GEDULD Gold Mines Limited

Z: 10,440,000 shares of 50 cents each				
	Quarter ended Mar. 1980	Quarter ended Dec. 1979	6 months ended Mar. 1980	6 months ended Dec. 1979
<b>SULTS</b>				
are metres (KG)'s ..	131	126	257	252
.....	709	748	1,457	1,456
.....	12.64	12.75	12.69	12.75
.....	8,963	8,870	17,833	17,832
.....	214.27	200.77	415.04	453.52
.....	39.42	39.42	39.42	39.42
.....	3.118	3.921	3.620	3.921
<b>ICAL SCHEME</b>				
.....	621	542	1,163	1,084
.....	0.52	0.50	1.02	0.99
.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ON SALES	1.01	1.00	2.01	1.99
.....	16,236	10,742	26,978	21,484
.....	1.32	1.07	2.39	1.91
<b>ULTS</b>				
.....	1,000	1,000	2,000	2,000
.....	234,985	27,189	262,174	262,174
.....	27,846	25,668	53,514	53,514
.....	107,049	71,301	178,350	178,350
.....	1,092	1,042	2,134	2,134
.....	1,530	1,536	3,066	3,066
.....	110,571	73,745	184,316	184,316
.....	61,147	39,945	101,092	101,092
.....	49,424	35,800	85,224	85,224
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.....	1,092	1,042	2,134	2,134
.....	1,530	1,536	3,066	3,066
.....	110,571	73,745	184,316	184,316
.....	61,147	39,945	101,092	101,092
.....	49,424	35,800	85,224	85,224
.....	1,000	1,000	2,000	2,000
.....	234,985	27,189	262,174	262,174
.....	27,846	25,668	53,514	53,514
.....	107,049	71,301	178,350	178,350
.....	1,092	1,042	2,134	2,134
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.....				





## China set to replace Taiwan on IMF

The Executive board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is expected to grant membership to China and oust Taiwan.

This would open the door to Peking's full economic partnership with the non-communist world and leave the Soviet Union as the sole remaining major communist power outside 140-member organization. It would also enable China to become a member of the World Bank, which provides about \$10,000m (£4.32bn) a year in credit to developing countries. However there could still be a hitch. The technicalities of transferring the IMF seat of one country to another still has to be settled.

### Payment problem

The Mitsubishi Motor Corporation will start car engine production next month for the Chrysler Corporation if agreement is reached between them on payment procedure. Mitsubishi has proposed that cash payments be made by wire transfer.

### Steel plant appeal

Nigeria has renewed its call to the Soviet Union to put the Ajaokuta steel complex—being built by Soviet workmen—into operation. Mr I. C. Madubuike, the federal education minister, made the appeal to the Soviet ambassador, Mr V. V. Snelguirev.

### 12,000 jobs lost

General Motors Corporation has laid off 12,000 car workers at assembly plants which produce larger models with high fuel consumption. The move came after the company reduced shifts and assembly line speeds.

### Preferential tariffs end

Australia will end its remaining preferential tariffs for imports from Britain and Ireland next year. Australia began phasing out the Commonwealth preferential rate in 1973 when Britain joined the EEC.

## £80m market shows dramatic decline in sales and big growth in stocks

# Caravan makers facing a rough ride

Tourer caravan manufacturers, whose home market was worth £80m last year, are being hit by a sales decline of at least 10 per cent, combined with over-production and heavy stocks in the distribution pipeline.

Production cutbacks of a third are now becoming common, involving redundancies and lay-offs. There are increasing fears that if later spring sales do not make up for the slackness of customer demand so far this season, a number of manufacturers, particularly smaller ones, could be driven out of business.

One small manufacturer closed down in the Hull area towards the end of last year, but the first major casualty has emerged with Astral Caravans ending production after being in tourer caravan manufacture for 21 years.

The Hull-based Spooner construction group, of which Astral was a subsidiary, decided to pull out of the sector partly because exports had been proving more difficult as European sales generally had dropped at the same time that sterling's strength had made exports harder to sell. But the United Kingdom market decline also hit Astral, and Spooner could see no improvement in the situation this year.

The Astral closedown has cost 90 jobs but any other redundancies and lay-offs in the industry would be particularly hit Humberston, which is the largest single centre for caravan production.

In Scotland Thomson T-Line, caravan makers for more than 70 years, have been

cutting tourer production by around a third for some months, and has reduced their workforce on tourer production by half to 90 in the past two years. In common with many other manufacturers they have been finding that sales of caravans for static use, as holiday homes or for residential purposes, have been much more stable.

Glasgow-based Thomson Caravans with a workforce of 200, has also cut production by around a third, although other coach-building work has so far largely topped up the excess capacity. But the company is "watching the situation closely".

Among the four largest companies in caravan manufacture—A-Line Caravans, ABI Caravans, Caravans International and Cosalt Caravans—ABI have found sales patchy this season, but largely around 10 per cent down. Other companies are putting the possible sales decline this season as high as 15 per cent.

The manufacturers are worried that even if sales pick up during the later spring it will probably take most of this year to dent the pile-up of stock both in their own yards and with the caravan dealers. Some makers estimate that there is as much as a year's production in the pipeline.

Some manufacturers and dealers use stock financing deals, with hire purchase companies providing the cash back-up, under which unsold caravans could after a period revert to the manufacturers. Unless there is a sharp pick-up in sales

this could place heavy pressure on smaller manufacturers and is largely why fears are growing that more will be forced out of business.

The precarious state of some makers is underlined in a survey of the financial performance of caravan manufacturers over a two-year period to the end of the 1978-79 financial year by Inter Company Comparisons. ICC traced a steady profits decline with only 69 per cent of key companies improving their turnover and only 45 per cent improving profits.

ICC suggests that companies are closing; margins are likely and the future is bleak. The industry believes that this analysis might prove somewhat pessimistic for static caravans. This is because at times when disposable income is hit, the static market usually does well.

But the analysis looks undeniable in the tourer sector as both the first-time buyer market and the replacement market seem hit by a combination of shortage of cash among consumers and the increasing running costs involved in touring.

Existing caravan owners there are around 335,000 tourers in use compared with some 253,000 static holiday homes and 97,000 mobile homes—seen most likely to put off a decision to trade up to a new model.

Derek Harris

\*Camping and Caravan Equipment Manufacturers and Distributors, third edition: Inter Company Comparisons (ICC); £40.80.

## Thorn EMI video link with Japan

By Our Commercial Editor  
The chances of Britain becoming a significant base for production of video disc machines as well as the discs themselves grew yesterday with the announcement of a co-operation agreement between JVC—the Victor Company of Japan—and Thorn EMI.

The "close relationship" agreement is aimed at promoting JVC's VHD-AHD (video high density audio high density) disc system which JVC plans to introduce in Europe and the United States by the end of 1981.

But as production builds up during the following year, it is likely that first assembly and then at least part-manufacture would be considered at Thorn EMI production centres. Increasing automation is likely to mean that skilled labour could be switched to video disc and machine production or assembly.

JVC's video disc system, anticipating a much bigger market by the middle of the decade, will be in competition with systems from Philips and the United States-based RCA. Philips, which plans a European launch for its disc system next year, has plans for pressing to be done at a converted factory in Blackburn, Lancashire.

## BP's German offshoot in joint coal gasification venture

Gelsenberg AG, a West German subsidiary of British Petroleum, and Fried Krupp GmbH have taken a first step towards a joint coal gasification company by founding a planning company for coal gasification. In a joint statement, the two companies said a project team would study the technical and economic preconditions for building a commercial plant to gasify coal on the basis of Koppers-Totzek technology developed by Krupp Koppers.

GmbH Krupp's subsidiary. The two companies apparently wish to build a plant at a coastal site in either Schleswig Holstein or Lower Saxony but have not counted out an inland site, as long as the transport infrastructure is favourable. The plant would process coal to produce motor fuels, motor fuel additives and products for the chemical industry. Dr Hellmuth Buddenberg, the chief executive of Deutsche BP, British Petroleum's German

subsidiary and the parent company of Gelsenberg, is visiting Australia to study latest coal processing developments and explore the possibilities of shipping Australian coal to West Germany. He said in Canberra that Deutsche BP intended to build up its activities in the coal sector and that Ruhrkohle AG, the West German coal producing company, had expressed an interest in joining the new planning company.

## Unit trusts pass the 10-year test

By Sylvia Morris

Unit trusts have over the decade generally produced a result which stands comparison with any other investment medium, Mr Cholmeley Messer, chairman of the Unit Trust Association, said at the annual meeting yesterday.

The last year had been a good one for the industry which now had £3,940m under management with no less than six developments to improve conditions.

Mr Messer said that the lifting of dividend controls last July followed by the abolition of exchange control in the autumn had been beneficial and the removal of Department of Trade restrictions on what managers could charge for their services had also helped. This year's Budget had granted unit trusts exemption from capital gains tax on their funds and at the same time individual investment had been encouraged with the raising from £1,000 to £5,000.

Then came perhaps the best news, with the proposed reduction in the Finance Bill on the rate of tax paid on income generated by gilts held within a unit trust from 52 per cent corporation tax to 30 per cent basic rate tax.

The punitive rate of tax charged on this type of income has generally restricted unit trust groups from launching funds invested in gilts. Now a major opportunity has been opened up to them at a time when industry sales are flagging.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Building contracts and reasons of cost rises

From Mr A. C. Ensom

Sir, Mr A. C. Ensom (Letters April 9) puts forward an interesting suggestion to solve some of the problems of additional costs in building contracts. However, I think he misunderstands the way in which most contracts work and has omitted to mention a major reason for over-expenditure.

The cost of the types of unforeseen delays which he mentions (increased interest rates, labour disputes, weather, raw material shortages, etc.) are already normally borne by the contractor and would, therefore, not form part of an additional payment to him.

The extremely slow settlement of accounts by both central and local government is certainly a problem and most contractors will take account of the cost of this when tendering but I doubt that payment will be any faster just because the money comes from a Trustee Investment Account. It is the process of authorizing payment which is so slow.

The main reason for over-expenditure is that changes in

specification are made during the course of construction. These may arise because the employer changes his mind but more frequently they are due to inadequate preparation of drawings, specifications, etc. before the contract is tendered. The costs involved in these changes are high and under standard forms of building contract can be passed on to the employer. The problem needs to be tackled at the pre-contract stage, when documents should more accurately reflect the designers' intentions. The solution lies in the hands of architects and others involved in the design process who should produce adequate documentation and the employers who should insist that this is done so that the contractor's tender accurately reflects the final cost by allowing the "need for subsequent changes". Yours faithfully, A. C. ENSOM, Watts and Partners, Construction Consultants, 109 Lewisham High Street, London, SE13 6AT, April 9.

### Taxpayer savings: investor

From Mr Adrian Gray  
Sir, Is there no hope for tax payers? Mr Hu (April 8), director, come. Tax Payer wants the Government any savings on expenditures in the Civil Service, to be used for the benefit of the taxpayer. Has nobody told tax payers, through the Government, that more than 100,000 people are in the Civil Service and it can only be reduced by 10,000? Mr Huibert-Power be content to pass on that debt onto tax payers, through the Government, and grandchildren, for most of us are for choice, in unceasingly restoring the nation and responsibilities, by lobbying the Government such measures would amortise the tax, the next 30 years (a pound note). ADRIAN GRAY, 21 Russell Road, Wimblesdon, SW19 9

### Unfair Co Terms Act

From Mr C. A. Pratt  
Sir, Concerning the Robert Young in (April 10) the effects (or non-effects) of the Unfair Contract 1977 and with variance to David T. Theoretical company, made it impossible reasonable, in my opinion, the difficulties arise in this case account is taken the letter of the A. underlying spirit. The use of "at exclusion or exemption by suppliers of services and their subsequent reliability tends, in my encourage inefficiency and a "less" On the other, a reasonable exclusion clauses drafted in summer in mind the supplier might we greater efficiency customer aware, probably lead to larger profits. C. A. ABRAMS, 2, Denbigh Garden, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6EN, April 10.

### Solar energy without sunshine

From Mr J. H. Millar

Sir, In your issue of Friday, March 21, there is a point in your article "Plugging Into The Sun For Profit" which needs clarification.

Evacuated glass tubes with compound parabolic reflectors can and do pick up energy from daylight when the sky is covered by clouds and the sun cannot be seen. These compound parabolic concentrators

can and do work with diffused light.

On the south side of a factory in southern England there are 48 of these vacuum tube CFCs which have been, for the past several months, producing hot water for use in the factory.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, J. H. MILLAR, FRAE, 49, Avenue Hector Otto, Monaco, Principauté de Monaco, April 10.

# Ultramar: the British Oil Company

## Revenues exceed £1,000 million

### Points from Mr. Campbell Nelson's Statement to the Shareholders

The Ultramar figures for 1979: revenues exceed £1,000 million, cash flow from operations was £86 million, pre-tax profit was over £75 million and net profit nearly £47 million.

All of our major divisions contributed to these excellent results. We are particularly pleased with the showing of Indonesian, Californian, Western Canadian and Caribbean operations.

The 1979 drilling programme resulted in substantial increases to our gas and oil reserves.

Our Balance Sheet position is greatly improved. Cash flow from operations exceeded our capital expenditures and permitted us to increase our working capital by some £33 million.

In November last we paid an interim dividend of 5p (net) per share on the

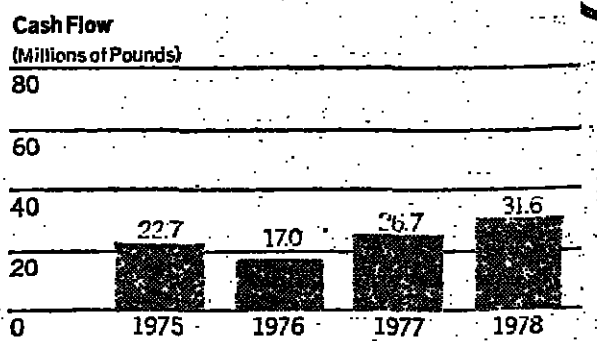
Ordinary Shares. We have been able to follow this up by proposing a final dividend of 10p (net) per Ordinary Share. We are also recommending a capitalisation issue of one Ordinary Share for each one held.

Our capital expenditure programme for the next few years will probably be heavily slanted toward exploration drilling. We will be spending large sums in Indonesia, the North Sea and Western Canada; and lesser amounts in Egypt, Australia and elsewhere.

We are determined to make a major effort in the U.K. North Sea. We have joined a number of separate groups to apply for licences being offered in the seventh round.

Despite business recession, runaway inflation and high interest rates, we have many good things going for us in 1980. At our Annual General Meeting I shall be able to report to you excellent results for the first quarter. I expect 1980 to be another good year for Ultramar.

Summarised Financial Results				
	1979	1978	1977	1976
	£million	£million	£million	£million
Sales	1,001.7	595.1	472.7	571
Operating profit before taxation	75.4	37.7	24.7	12
Taxation on operating profit	30.1	23.6	10.5	6
Operating profit after taxation	45.3	14.1	14.2	6
Foreign exchange fluctuations	1.5	(5.5)	(5.6)	4
Net profit	46.8	8.6	8.6	10



The Annual General Meeting will be held at Winchester 100 Old Broad Street, London EC2, on Friday 9th May, 11.00 am. If you would like a copy of the 1979 Annual Report please complete the coupon.



# Ultramar

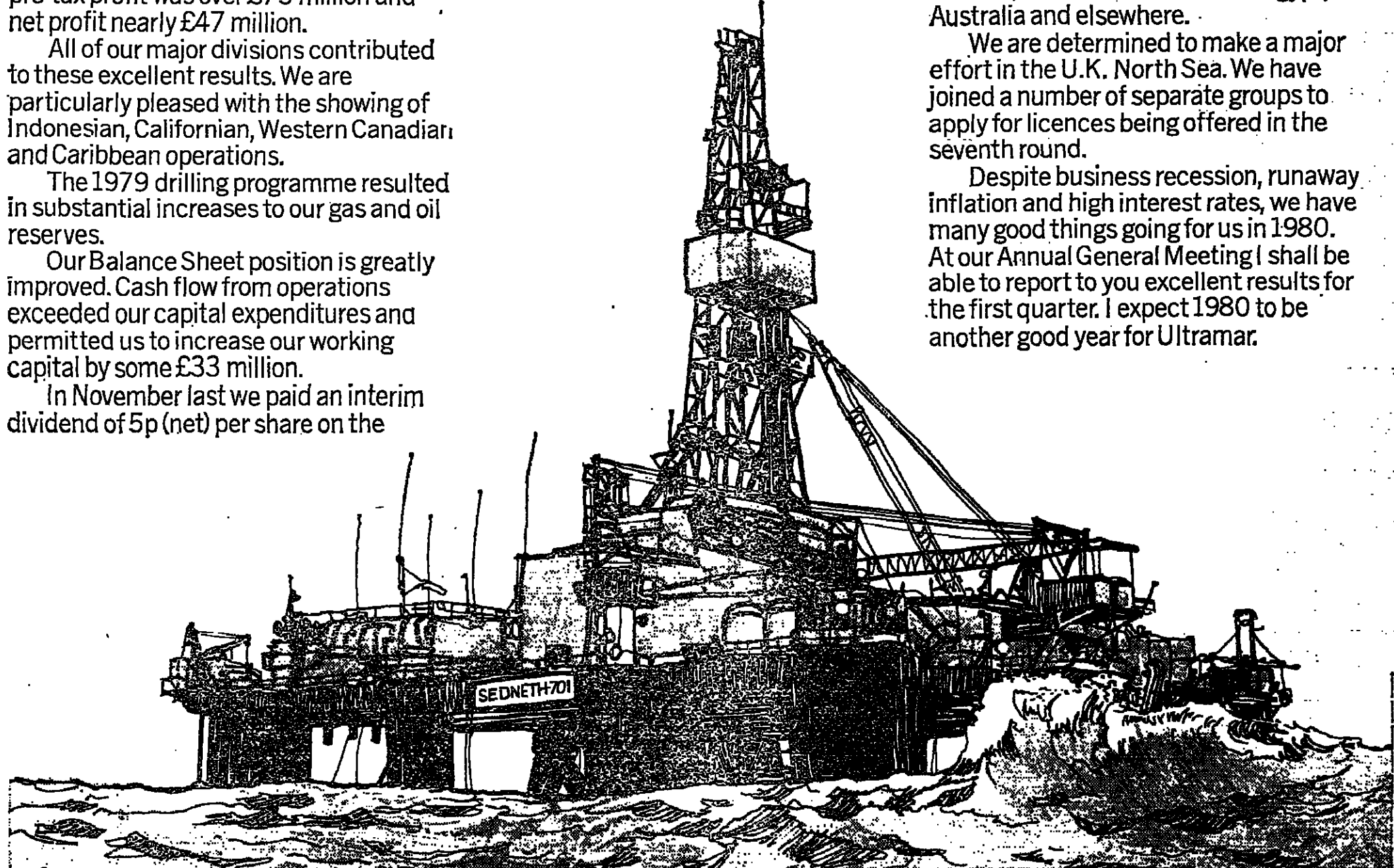
The British Oil Company

Please send me a copy of the Ultramar 1979 Annual Report.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

To: The Secretaries, Ultramar Company Limited,  
2 Broad Street Place, London EC2M 7EP.





BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Towards a cut in MLR

Expected the gilt-edged market of long-dated stock yesterday morning up £500m of funding for the month in the May banking month and much for June.

Together with yesterday's March supply figures—sterling M3 was up 1.2%—and the reasonably encouraging liability figures last week, that things are coming right on the front are steadily becoming

wonder then, particularly with rates apparently on the turn, gilt market is starting to talk in two more good sets of money measures as being enough to justify cut in MLR.

Quite clearly, if the next sets of money supply figures are less than fully convincing, the market is going to think twice before it just as the "corset" is

fundamentally, the market is going to think twice before it just as the "corset" is

## ing for

British Petroleum, the annual report of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group is full of our current year trading and all of operating in the present state. There must always be a bit of the Middle East will other year of spiralling oil prices out from its cockpit at the moment anticipating a 2-3 per cent drop in leading to some sanity in the

l, its traditionally limited access to supplies has forced it to step up for its own oil and while it will around 7 per cent of its supplies in market in 1980, around 30 per cent from its own supplies, over 60 per cent of which are outside Opec

BP it will continue to operate at a disadvantage to the Aramco th their access to cheaper Saudi factor that is already being felt the downstream operations.

his background, Shell is having avily of which the major feature as the purchase of Belridge for year. This has put something in Shell Oil's balance sheet, leading to a 2-3 per cent drop in leading to some sanity in the

Shell itself the increase in long-term by £1,038m to £4,281m and a np in working capital has left ity ratio little changed at 26.7 rd the £2,500m capital spending in 1980 should be accommodated flow.

e, Shell has produced current to its previous current purchases, although because they are by the United States authorities capital adjustments have been

his CCA net income drops from £3,051m to only £718m cutting on assets from a third to only

o-ahead was given for two AGR tors earlier this week. The share northern Engineering Industries build the boilers for both and ing plant for one) have risen by 2.2% to 42.1p.

surge reflects the input of around h of work (against turnover last 33m) for NEI during the next years, and says nothing about which was pretty awful though tedly since NEI was badly hurt ineering strike and also had to serious loss-making situation in ar businesses.

en, run out at only £18m against

£30.4m in the previous year and of that shortfall perhaps £7m can be attributed to the national engineering dispute and around £6m to the problems at Reynolds, that taking in both trading losses during the period and the costs of rationalization including redundancies which totalled 900 group-wide during the year.

This year has started well, and quite apart from the prospect of work starting later in the year on the AGR boiler contracts. Order intake is sound and NEI is seeing efficiency benefits from the measures carried out last year. The effect of the steel strike could be seen if supply bottlenecks develop, but there is no sign of that happening yet.

Thus profits could well be returned to the 1978 level before the AGR business gets underway later in the year. This is important of course, particularly since it should take NEI comfortably through the recession, but



Mr. Duncan McDonald, chairman of Northern Engineering Industries.

the group would still like more business for its generator and switchgear operations and is tendering hard for that overseas.

With a sound balance sheet and the new contracts then the yield—on a maintained dividend—of 12.6 per cent could become increasing attractive as time wears on.

Against that, though, NEI has still to produce CCA figures (and will not do so until the 1980 accounts). When they are published they are unlikely to make happy reading.

## Coral Looking for a lucky break

Market doubts about Coral Leisure are adequately summed up by a yield of 15.1 per cent and a p/e ratio of around 4 on stated 1979 earnings.

Last year profits (over a 53-week period) are shown to have risen 14 per cent to £24.8m. But nearly all the running was made by the casinos, whose profits rose 57 per cent to £11.7m and whose future must be in jeopardy.

Elsewhere the picture was not particularly bright with holidays, mainly, Pontins chipping in profits increased by 11 per cent to £9.5m; hotels slipping fractionally to £2.6m, and racing dropping 18 per cent to £5.16m.

The bull point, however, was the 10 per cent increase in the dividend, which Coral's bankers were clearly aware of, and which points to some confidence in a future without casinos. With borrowings of around £50m against shareholders funds of around £72m, Coral is clearly uncomfortably highly-levered if casino cash-flow is to disappear. But it is also in the right sort of leisure area to gain support in the current economic climate.

Whatever the outcome on the casino front there will be a large tranche of profits from this division for the current year at least. Ironically, however, the spin of the wheel has not been to advantageous in the opening months with Coral on the wrong end of some exceptionally lucky streaks by international gamblers.

Given that historic non-casino profits would provide a p/e ratio of under 9 and also just cover the dividend they might seem something to go for in the current rating. But Coral has already lost a lot of institutional support and the future looks sufficiently cloudy to encourage extreme caution.

The biggest single ingredient in the Finance Bill 1980 is the smaller business enterprise package; the question now arises—what is this worth in terms of national economic growth.

Under Labour, fiscal "incentives" for small businesses were often camouflaged by reducing overkill redistributive taxation without appearing to have done so, and the Conservative have to some extent stolen Lord Lever's clothes.

The small company 1979 corporation tax rate is down from 42 per cent to 40 per cent and a company's "small" status is defined by profits up to £70,000 a year (previously £60,000). Appointment of trading profits finally goes.

Initial capital and first year business trading expenses are to be treated more benevolently. Interest on money borrowed to invest in new businesses will qualify for tax relief, even if the borrower works elsewhere for the greater part of the day.

Incidental costs of raising finance from outside sources—fees; commission; advertising; etc become deductible against a company's corporation tax—

if any. Pre-trading expenses incurred within one year before commencement become likewise fully deductible.

More significantly income tax relief will be allowed for entrepreneur's capital losses on shares in unquoted trading companies if and when they fail. This is an anglicized version of the French *Loi Monory*, and the most innovative and helpful of the whole set. It is right that the English version should apply to the private not the quoted company, and that relief should be confined to occasions of corporate failure.

If we have seen so far represents government's complete fiscal policy until 1984, it is fair to conclude that it hardly has one. Or perhaps it has two opposed policies. One is to simplify the tax system by abolishing tax reliefs and allowances; the other is to restore incentives to save, work hard and invest; an approach based on the crude psychology that high tax is a deterrent to effort because you see so little net in your monthly pay packet.

The other may be expressed as the urge to raise taxes so as to finance expenditure by

preneurs rather than juicy carrots.

Failure may be henceforth tax-sheltered, but success is to remain heavily penalized by capital gains tax and capital transfer tax. The former represents a tax on inflation and the latter a tax on succession—an indispensable ingredient in business development.

The sweet prospect of success is still so shrouded by taxes as to be hardly represented as a goal to be relentlessly pursued and until this is changed, none of the failure tax-cushions will count for much.

If we have seen so far represents government's complete fiscal policy until 1984, it is fair to conclude that it hardly has one. Or perhaps it has two opposed policies. One is to simplify the tax system by abolishing tax reliefs and allowances; the other is to restore incentives to save, work hard and invest; an approach based on the crude psychology that high tax is a deterrent to effort because you see so little net in your monthly pay packet.

The other may be expressed as the urge to raise taxes so as to finance expenditure by

revenue than by borrowing, a consequence of the belief in the importance of controlling the money supply.

The effect of these two competing attitudes has, so far, been self-cancelling: to leave taxes much as they were, and simply to raise all thresholds to take uneconomic taxpayers out of the system, in order to make it more cost effective.

It is beginning to appear that for the present, government has abandoned tax as a positive economic mechanism. This may be the right course. We have learned that tax changes work their way through an economy very slowly. In recent years the social and economic consequences promised have never occurred, probably because the tax changes have been over taken by further tax changes too soon.

This might have been an acceptable policy had not last year's hopes been raised so high by the "thorough" review of capital taxation by Lord Cockfield, Minister of State at the Treasury, and many recorded promises to draw the "teeth" of capital transfer tax, a system

still unchanged since the days of Mr Healey.

Surely we are entitled to be told more about the government's taxation policies as the Bill winds its way through Parliament. Things cannot be left as they are now, for there is too much uncertainty about the government's intentions.

Has Sir Geoffrey decided as a result of the review that capital taxation is acceptable as it is? Has he formed that view before he has had up since the review rejected all the detailed submissions put to Lord Cockfield by British business?

If so, his smaller business enterprise package is a waste of time. Or does he mean to introduce far-reaching and positive relief measures? If so, when? Unless this uncertainty is resolved the damaging effect of it will far outweigh what is included in the small business package. Transactions have been held up since the review was announced, and are being held up still.

In 1979 Sir Geoffrey showed great confidence in tax reform, and he cannot possibly have lost that confidence so soon.

## Not a good advertisement for self-regulation

Robin Young

The Advertising Standards Authority used to issue a clear invitation: "If you see an advertisement which is not legal, decent, honest and truthful, tell us. But now the ASA has dropped this slogan."

The new slogan is "If you see an advertisement which is not legal, decent, honest and truthful, tell us. But now the ASA has dropped this slogan."

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into operation on July 2 last year) the committee decided instead to suspend Section 11, 4.4 and its sub-paragraphs in the code—those dealing with price comparisons and with value claims. It was intended to leave these clauses in abeyance until the application of the order had been carried by prosecutions in the courts.

Mr Peter Scruton, the independent chairman of the committee (all its other members are drawn from the advertising industry), regrets "that it was necessary, even temporarily, to discard the principles set out in that section of the code, guidelines which were wholly beneficial, bearing in mind that the self-regulatory system operates in the spirit and not merely the letter of the law."

If the decision gave Mr Scruton cause for regret, it exasperated those who are campaigning to stamp out the advertisement of bogus bargains. Precisely because the ASA was administering a voluntary and self-regulating code, they felt a heavy sense of opportunity to prove that self-regulation is more effective than detailed and complicated legislation involving new classes of criminal offence of which businessmen may be convicted.

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## Technology

## When small is beautiful in Britain too

The phrase "small is beautiful" is linked firmly with the name of the late Dr Fritz Schumacher, who wrote a book of that title, and became involved in the Local Enterprise Trust movement. These trusts, of which about 30 have been or are being formed so far, are broadly based community groups. They aim to bridge the many gulfs in a community in a genuine drive to improve the local economy through human-scale technologies.

There is no standard pattern, but they differ from the conventional small-firm incentives in their emphasis on a broad community base and on appropriate technology.

One example is Clyde Workshops at Tollcross Industrial Village, Glasgow. Here disused buildings on the site of the former Clyde Iron Works have been transformed into compact industrial community.

BSC (Industry), the job-creation offshoot of the British Steel Corporation, provided initial loan finance, and the Scottish Development Agency also helped. Clyde Workshops processed the converted buildings on fully commercial terms, streamlining the formalities and improving a selective letting policy to produce an integrated business community. Sixty companies have moved in creating over 500 jobs.

"The village is more than an industrial estate," Clyde Workshops report. "It has evolved as a market place for its tenants' products and services, characterised by spontaneous inter-business trading, subcontracting and sales agencies, for complementary neighbours."

Another example of a local enterprise trust project is in St Helens, Lancashire, where a community partnership, including Pilkingtons, the glass company, has set up small premises for new businesses.

On average, each of these local enterprise schemes tends to produce about 200 or more new jobs in a local community of perhaps 50,000 people. Scale this up, says Mr Davis, and the result is a very significant national contribution.

Recently the ITDG launched an appeal to set up in London what will be called the Schumacher Centre for Technology Choice.

Ordaining what the group hoped to accomplish with the new centre, Mr George McRobie said: "We hope to change attitudes by getting people to look at what they can do for themselves."

But in reality there is much more to AT in Britain than The Good Life and the Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth. For a realization has dawned that Dr Schumacher's precepts are now relevant here also—not in making cement from rice-husks but in thinking seriously of possible options and alternatives that can conserve energy and resources, create jobs, and improve the quality of life in local communities.

One result has been the formation of a number of local, small-scale enterprises. Mr George McRobie, ITDG chairman, recalls that the group's project to investigate and develop appropriate technology for the United Kingdom (abbreviated to AT-UK) began in 1975.

In typical Schumacher fashion we started with Mr John Davis (a former oil company executive, now an ITDG consultant) took on the task of looking at the problems here and the relevance of our ideas to this country. Quite quickly he began to realize that there were parallels and saw the need for local initiatives aimed at providing low-cost work-

places using local skills and appropriate technology.

He also realized the importance of training and guidance and he became involved in the Local Enterprise Trust movement. These trusts, of which about 30 have been or are being formed so far, are broadly based community groups. They aim to bridge the many gulfs in a community in a genuine drive to improve the local economy through human-scale technologies.

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## Business Diary: An iron rod for BSC? • Razor star

to take over the British Steel Corporation. The takeover is being led by Sir Charles Villiers.

years top industries in their country, so any comes up must be a certain amount

one man said by know to be very of it is the no. Ian MacGregor's time between have deputy chair- that other troubled BT and various unness interests in- mining corporation,

ish Joseph ponders Gregor is his man re to read through ge Earle Memorial ch MacGregor deli- five years ago to tion for Business des. In it he de- more government prosperity and less

Mr Keith and, in- what mean they might seem to be

over at British the search cou- a successor to say, the departing ave. The smart 1 John Parker, the possible for mer- siding.

enormous support the industry a large y drawback may is 38. In private at would be re- very good age to show his paces at

It was not that long ago when the mention of Japanese televisions brought on hos- tilities among the British TV makers. Now three Japanese TV companies, with another waiting in the wings, have been admitted to the United Kingdom trade association.

As a further sign of changing times the association has also changed its name from the British Radio Equipment Manufacturers' Association to the British Radio & Electronic Equipment Manufacturers' Association, although it still wants to be known as Brema.

Brema stipulates that member companies have to be involved in manufacturing and the Japanese, in their drive to use Britain both as a market and a European sales spring-board, have been qualifying at an increasing pace. Sony, National and Toshiba have qualified in that order. Mitsubishi qualifies in July.

As Lord Thorneycroft, Brema's president, put it, the Japanese companies are likely to make "a very great contribution". He then went on, no doubt advisedly, to give his British members a warning about improving efficiency.

He said: "If we are going to make a success, we have got to match in manufacturing efficiency the standards which are reached by our principal competitors in the world. There is no trick solution which would avoid that particular discipline."

Otherwise, he might have added, the Japanese might even come to dominate Brema.

Victor Kiam, perpetrator of what must be one of the least creative but most effective television commercials of the year, is experiencing a degree of public recognition unheard of in business circles.

A waiter at the Dorchester actually asked Kiam for his autograph while I chatted to him yesterday. Kiam is the chap who bought Remington, the razor firm, from Sperry Rand, which was having sales problems with it.

Kiam went on television in the United Kingdom to back his product up with a no-nonsense money-back guarantee. Such has been the success of the commercials, that Kiam's personal salesmanship is now to be featured in Remington's advertisements world-wide. He has already taped the television advertisements in Norway.

Shell has produced a simplified version of its 1979 report and accounts for employees. The cover shows four press cuttings with headlines such as "Oil supply uncertain" and "World energy future needs investment now."

The stories below the headlines have been deliberately obscured but it is still possible to make out enough words to see that the articles have little to do with the subject matter in the headlines.

"Oil supply uncertain", for instance, appears over a story about "defence", and below "World energy future" follows "The Channel would reduce transport costs and delivery times". A third story refers to an anti-submarine "task force".



Victor Kiam, owner of Remington razors, is practising his German.

And yes, as the advertisements say, he really did take on Remington after his wife bought him one of the razors as a present. "But I did look at the figures first," he said. The company is now back in the black, but by how much he is keeping secret.

When newspapers talk of paintings sold for £1m there is a natural inclination to believe that this is the price which the buyer paid for his purchase. In fact, a complicated set of extras for VAT and auction commission is added to each item sold through a saleroom. Mayfair art dealer Roy Miles asked his accounts to detail this difference and received the reply: "When buying in the saleroom a picture actually costs the hammer price plus 11 per cent—which is the same as the hammer price, plus 10 per cent, plus 15 per cent of the 10 per cent."

Miles says he remains mystified by the explanation but he does know that none of the surcharge goes the way of the dealers.

British food traders often make general complaints about the ineffectual nature of our promotional bodies abroad compared with the strength of organizations which help foreign exporters.

Specific grumbles were voiced for the first time yesterday when Sam



## Stock markets

## Long tap expectations keep trading quiet

There was a quieter atmosphere in the stock markets yesterday compared with Wednesday, as dealers and investors awaited the confirmation of the sell-out in the new long tap and the latest trade and banking figures. The smaller-than-expected rise in Sterling 100 helped to keep prices on an even keel and gilt ended the day waiting for the Bank of England's announcement on the tendered price of £1 to £1 off Wednesday's best price.

The recent acquisition by conglomerate Mr. Graham Ferguson Lacey of a near 5 per cent holding in Cowdall Industrial Holdings, which is 36 per cent owned by Illingworth Morris and Mrs. Pamela Mason, has sent speculators scurrying into the stock. At 21p last week, the share price is now 30p.

the tap and the allocations. In the event the trade figures were much in line with predictions and made little impact.

Although most equity sectors were quiet, prices stayed firm up until the close when the FT Index dipped for the first time in the day to finish at 442.6, down 0.5, having reached its top level of 443.9 at noon. Toppers particularly in the blue chip stocks pointed out that Wall Street's 12 point fall to 771 had upset the market at the start.

Gilt finished the day down on the previous night's high levels, although the Government Broker managed to sell a little more of Exchequer 3 per cent 1984 at 170.

Longs, which had opened at the previous night's high levels, quickly eased off with a finishing price of about 1.1 lower. Shorts suffered the same fate and ended with a change of

Leading industrials showed few changes at the close with the exception of Unilever where there was a stock shortage. It closed 11p up at 419p. ICI gained 2p to 374p as did Beechams at 120p but Rank dipped by the same amount to 196p. Fisons at 279p, Glaxo at 216p and Courtaulds at 67p were unchanged. Dunlop was also static at 57p and BAT finished the same at 236p although it rose 2p during the day.

Among the features arising from companies' results, Coral Leisure regained 1p lost before its announcement, to close unchanged at 69p while Brocks group, which maintained its dividend, regained the losses which anticipated poor profits had sent down to 21p. Hotels and Restaurants fell 5p to 218p after a 12 per cent

profits drop, while a 27 per cent earnings fall cut 6p from Albert Martin at 60p.

P & O lost an early 5p rise to finish 1p up at 119p after denying a report that BP might buy its gas carrier fleet. Also in shipping, Furness Withy remained at 368p after Mr. C. Y. Tung announced that an Orient Overseas subsidiary had acquired a further 10,000 shares. Northern Engineering Industries, whose profits were bang in line with market expectations, hardened 1p to 42p.

Hunting Petroleum's strong profits helped the share price to rise 4p to 144p, but Higgs & Hill dipped 4p to 48p after the annual loss.

Continued bid speculation based on Style Shoe's assets and extensive property interests brought in the speculators once again, although after early advances of 15p to 185p, it dropped back to 175p.

Steel Brothers gained 10p to 127p in anticipation of next week's figures, while James Neil, also reporting, soon added 4p to 55p. Ladbroke dipped 2p to 145p after further threats to its gaming licences.

The oil sector had a quietly mixed day with the second liners showing the greatest advances. Caledonian gained 60p to 220p in a thin market while Aran Energy moved up 22p to 324p. Siebens put on 10p to 655p.

Among the majors Ultramar gained 4p to 580p after the annual meeting and Shell advanced 2p to 348p with the publication of the annual report. Profit makers moved on in Burmah after its results and clipped the price 7p to 215p, while Tricentral's share issue plan to North Americans knocked the price down 4p to 300p.

BP was 2p down at 334p after

early worries about Iran. Rumours that Deminor would announce a holding in Lasso lifted the price 3p to 511p.

Electricals continued to forge ahead, particularly the secondary stocks. Farnell rose 8p to 304p, Electrocomponents gained the same to 549p and Unitech rose 10p to 301p. GEC dipped 5p to 379p, but Baxal gained 3p to 248p. Decca was up 10p to 720p and the "A" shares went ahead by 5p to 600p. Hawker Siddeley put on 2p to 186p after reporting its figures the previous day in engineering. GKN went up 5p to 271p, but Vickers was unchanged at 118p as was Tubes at 250p.

In mines, profit takers went to work on RTZ after its better than expected results the day before and the price finished 5p down at 473p. Gold gained 1p to 472p. Many of the gold shares drifted down, reflecting the lower prices of metals, but Anglo American Gold was unchanged at 574p as was Middle Wits at 350p.

Among property stocks there were overall gains on the day, although Land Securities slipped 2p to 314p and M&P fell 2p to 207p. Stock Conversion was up 6p to 390p and Great Portland gained 3p to 245p. Among second liners, Municipal Properties jumped 10p to 480p.

Equity turnover for April 16 was 581,555m (number of bargains 11,225). The most active stocks, according to Exchange Telegraph, were Tricentral, Ultramar, Imp Cos Gas, Burmah, Allied Breweries, GEC, MFI, Bowater, European Ferries, ICI, BP, BAT, BTR, Hewlett Packard and Lasso.

## Higgs &amp; Hill payout from reserves after loss

By Philip Robinson

Building group Higgs & Hill had had to dig into reserves to maintain its dividend yesterday as the group went into the red by nearly £1m last year.

Trading profits, already shared by provision against the cost of closing the civil engineering operations, carried a £2.5 million charge allowance on payments from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr Edwin Phillips, chairman of Higgs & Hill, said the group had a "very good year" and that the dividend was "a reflection of the group's performance".

On the East-West Corridor Road, which are still being negotiated.

That knocked pre-tax earnings from a profit just over £2m to a loss of £908,000. Higgs had to pull nearly £1m from reserves to pay a final dividend of 2.35p, maintaining the gross total at 5.5p.

But Mr Edwin Phillips, chairman, was quick to point out yesterday that during 1977 and 1978 the group had transferred around £3m to reserves and the group's cash position remained strong.

During last year the group closed its small timber joinery business. Foster & Dickson, whose markets dropped substantially, but Mr Phillips said closure costs were insignificant.

He added that last year the group's mainstream of business, building in the United Kingdom, continued to make satisfactory profits.

"The company's cash position remains healthy and in spite of difficulties of the United Kingdom construction market, new orders will achieve an increase in turnover for the current year."

"We expected a return to an overall profit position in 1980 but it is premature to give a quantified forecast," he said.

## Midland Industries suffer 5pc setback

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Midland Industries, the Wolverhampton foundry and engineering group, has suffered its first setback in seven years. The group made £2.5m before tax in the 15 months to December 31 which, on an annualised basis, represents a fall of 5 per cent on the £2.1m made in the preceding year.

All the downturn came in the engineering division where the slump in orders for tractor loaders dragged the agricultural machinery company into losses of £271,000. This turnaround accounted for the fall in engineering profits from £421,000 before tax to £29,000 in the 15 months.

In sharp contrast to competitors like Birmid Quicquay and Ley's Foundries analysts and City are saying that Midland has done unusually well in recent years.

Pre-tax profits for foundries rose from £2.47m which represent an annualised increase of 1 cent.

There was some borrowing which with high interest rate, however, changed £273,000 to £547,000, also suffered from port and engineering which slipped about 15-month profit turnover was £28.8m months against £28.8m.

The final dividend gross bringing the annualised total to 3.4, the rate of 1977, the figures to 105p at 3.3 per cent and the on seven years stated.

Mr E. Marsland, says general trading was worse than ever in the past, Midland's improvement in 1980

## Hunting pleases with 29pc advance

By Peter Wainwright

Pre-tax profits of Hunting Petroleum Services for 1979 jumped 29 pc to £2.93m, well ahead of midway market hopes of around £2.5m. The previous year Hunting failed to meet its 1978 forecast of £2.4m and reported £2.08m instead.

Hunting is well represented in the North Sea. It sells and services drilling and other oil field services to the rigs, and half the £1.13m pre-tax made by this division last year probably came from the North Sea. The year before the total was only £591,000; indeed the only weak spot was crude

oil marketing, storage and distribution which fell £863,000 to £599,000, a 29pc drop from £863,000 in 1978.

Hunting is, then, a North Sea oil company. It is big in North America and Canada and has a sterling has been a 18 per cent to 5.1 net, or to 7.8p a share, rose 4p to 16p. The shares were on sale at 85p in July, have suffered from a maiden forecast, and ingredient in profits

## Tilling expands US em with £8.6m takeover

Thomas Tilling's United States expansion programme continues apace with the proposed acquisition of Electric Supply Distributing Company of California for £8.6m.

The purchase of ESD, a subsidiary of the Heath Techna Corporation, is conditional on board approvals and meeting the requirements of the United States regulatory authorities.

ESD had sales of \$75m and pretax profits of \$3.8m in 1978 to January 31. It will fall under Tilling's Newey and Eyre industrial equipment distribu-

tion division, adding electrical distributor in the United States.

Since the start of the year Tilling has spent about £300m on United States and has total sales of £300m. Its interest in the field of pollution energy-saving equip-

The proposed \$43 million of Xynetics in form which was last month in balance with a rival

## Provision for repairs holds back De Vere

De Vere Hotels and Restaurants raised its provision for repairs and renewals by £384,000 to £1.95m last year, more than explaining the drop in 1979 from £1.54m in pre-tax profits. However, the drop in overseas visitors to the London hotel and restaurants did not help, and only last September the board looked to a "satisfactory" year after a nine-month profits rise of 24 per cent.

The shares duly fell 5p to 218p, even though the dividend rose from 5.2p a share to 6.00p

net, or 8.58p gross. Earnings a share fell only slightly, from 10p to 9.8p.

Turnover in the first quarter of this year is up 15 per cent and De Vere is exceptionally strong in having 15 provincial hotels. In total, 30 per cent of business is accounted for by commercial users and conferences. Asset backing is more than £3 a share.

Mr Leopold Muller, chairman, has yet to relinquish his controlling grip on De Vere. In February, 1979, it seemed that an approach was actually on the way. But it came to nothing.

## Inflation and shareholders

Investment in companies is not attractive when capital continues to be eroded year after year. While rights issues to repair the ravages wrought by inflation on the resources of companies may be sensible in immediate stock market terms, over the longer term they involve shareholders in paying over more money to keep the same proportion of the equity of a company.

This was the pessimistic message of Mr William Hyde, vice president of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants, when he addressed the Association of University Teachers of Accounting at Loughborough College yesterday.

## Seats on Muirhead board for two Tyco men

The chairman and a senior director of the American group Tyco Laboratories, have joined the board of electronics group Muirhead as non-executive directors.

Tyco has been steadily building up a stake in Sir Raymond Brown's electronics company for some time and at the last count they had a 23 per cent stake, which sparked renewed speculation that the United States group would make a full bid. But Muirhead were swift yesterday to dismiss the latest board appointments as foundation for a takeover rumour.

Company secretary Mr Donald

Buchanan said last night: "Both Tyco and Tyco have said publicly that there is no substance to these rumours of a takeover. We have been saying it for about a year. These are very good businessmen and we welcome them to the board."

But Mr Buchanan said he could not be sure whether the Tyco men had requested seats on Muirhead's board, or had been invited to join.

The Tyco men joining Muirhead are Mr Joseph Gaziano, chairman and president and Dr Raymond L. Bisslinghoff who has been vice-president for research and development at Tyco

## Tricentral plans American sale

Oil group Tricentral will be seeking shareholders' approval to sell 12.5m new ordinary shares to North American investors around mid-June.

The shares, about 23 per cent of the existing number in London, would be underwritten by investment banking syndicates in the United States and Canada. The sale price would be close to the London quote. If the shares were sold at last night's price it would raise £27.7m for the company.

Amstrad sale offer exceeds shares quota

Amstrad Consumer Electronics' offer for sale has brought in applications for around 10 times more than the 2.33 million shares offered to the public at 85p.

The basis of allotment will be announced today but it is expected to be 10 per cent across the board with a ballot for small applications.

Sobranie Holdings in Gallaheer deal

Sobranie has agreed to sell its tobacco licence interests and stocks of leaf and materials to Gallaheer.

In July 1968, Sobranie sold its various trade marks to Gallaheer under an agreement which granted Sobranie 99-year licences to market and manufacture certain tobacco products.

In addition this agreement provided inter alia that Gallaheer would have first refusal over such licences should at any time Sobranie wishes to dispose of them.

Cash consideration agreed is £400,000, plus the value of approximately £20,000, together with the purchase of the stocks referred to at book value and estimated to amount to about £800,000 at completion.

Lower tax benefits

On group sales (excluding VAT) up from £41.7m to £44.35m pre-tax profit of £4.35m, the Kingston upon Thames based department stores group, fell from a record £2.9m to £2.4m for the year ended February 2, 1980. After much reduced tax charge, from £1.25m to £324,000—due to stock relief and capital allowances on the substantial expenditure on the new store at Chatham—net profit increased, however, by £275,000 to £192m. The total dividend is being raised slightly, from 1.9p to 1.92p gross.

Ultramar move on nominee names

Ultramar, stirred into action by the Oppenheimer raid on Consolidated Goldfields' shares, will ask its shareholders next month to amend its articles to disenfranchise shares in nominee names, where the beneficial ownership is not disclosed. But at the moment with the percentage of nominee holdings

down 1 per cent to 2.8 per cent and overseas holders only slightly up from 9.6 per cent to 9.7 per cent, the company has no particular worries.

Mr Campbell Nelson, chairman, said the company only wanted to put teeth into the provisions about the disclosure of beneficial interests.

Shareholders approve Guthrie takeover

At the extraordinary general meeting of Guthrie Corporation, the resolution to approve the acquisition of City and International Trust was passed, following a poll of shareholders at which 13.28m votes, were cast in favour of the resolution and 11.66m votes against. The issued ordinary share capital of Guthrie is 28.72m shares of £1 each.

Interest weighs on Albert Martin

With the interest burden trebled at Albert Martin Holdings—from £177,000 to £530,000—pre-tax profits of this clothing manufacturer fell from £1.25m to £922,000. Turnover for 1979 was up from £21.48m to £25.54m. Earnings per share have dropped from 17.59p to 11.73p, but the total gross dividend is being slightly raised, from 6p to 6.14p.

Provincial Laundries buys Sky Signs

Provincial Laundries has purchased 85 per cent of the issued share capital of the privately owned London-based Sky Signs, owners of advertising balloons.

The initial consideration, payable at completion, is £127,500 cash. The maximum deferred consideration is £212,500, payable on profits of £554,167 being achieved in the 39 months to December 31, 1982.

For the year to September 30, 1979, Sky Signs made pre-tax profits of £37,941 on sales of £216,544. Net assets at that date were £35,700.

Mr John Cauter, the vendor, and Mr Miles Peckham have entered into three-year service agreements with Sky Signs as joint managing directors.

Business appointments

Insurers' president named

Mr Francis Perkins, chairman of the British Insurance Brokers' Association, is to become the first president of BIFA on relinquishing the chairmanship later this year.

Mr Perkins will be continuing as chairman of the Insurance Brokers' Registration Council.

Mr Richard J. Stanes has been appointed managing director of M. L. Baxford Group.

Mr L. W. Peters and Mrs Jean Denton have been appointed directors of Heron Motor Group.

Mr Paul Gilmartin, financial director of Glaxo Holdings, is to succeed Sir Austin Birt as chief executive. Sir Austin will continue as chairman of the board.

Mr J. N. Maltby has been appointed to the board of Burmah Oil.

Mr Albert Anzel has been named managing director of Merck Sharp & Dohme. He is also a vice-president of Merck Sharp & Dohme (Europe).

Mr Peter Doring has been appointed managing director of Baxsons Sims and Jeffries.

Mr Richard Berkshire has joined the board of Alvey & Metal Group as financial director.

Mr Roy J. Collins has been named managing director of K. P. Scherer. Mr Stuart R. Macmillan has been appointed marketing director.

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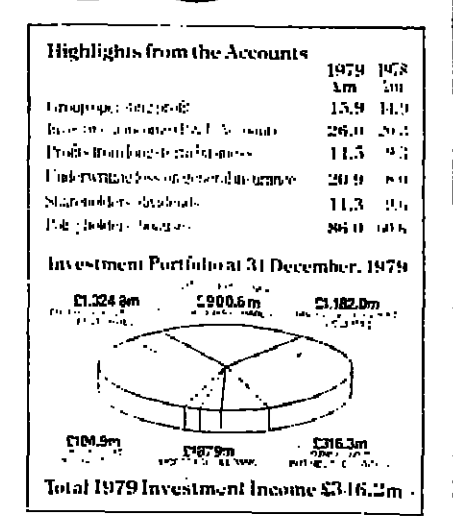
## THE RIGHT COVER FOR THE 80's

For quite a while now we've been re-shaping our plans to meet the opportunities of the 80's. Our long-term insurance profits and investment income for last year are significantly higher than for previous years although there have been disappointing losses in general insurance business. Our achievements allow us to pay improved bonuses to with-profits policyholders, and a special bonus to our United Kingdom life and pensions policyholders.

The effects of inflation challenge us to greater efforts in these changeable times but we shall be doing all in our power to safeguard the interests of policyholders, shareholders and industry in which we are major investors.

At the same time we are planning business strategies every bit as farsighted as the opportunities of the new decade allow.

On this basis we're happy to claim that Legal & General provides the right cover for the 1980's.



If you wish to receive a copy of the Report & Accounts, or are interested in one of our insurance policies please tick the appropriate box and send in:

☐ Please send me a copy of the 1979 Report & Accounts.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Home Tel no: \_\_\_\_\_

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Legal & General

We cover the things you care for.

24/11/80



## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Huge rises for Anglo-American

From Michael Prest  
Johannesburg, April 17

Massive increases in dividends and the average gold price received have been reported by the Anglo-American Corporation for the quarter to the end of March.

## General Mining unit ahead at quarter

The six mines in the Orange Free State administered by the corporation saw the gold price rise by 55 per cent to \$631 an ounce. The average price received by Anglo-American, the biggest gold producer outside the Soviet Union, rose by 66 per cent to \$666 an ounce.

## DAF Trucks confident

DAF Trucks expects this year's net profit to rise from the 21.7m fl (£4.6m) in 1979 if there is no stagnation in the market in the second half.

## Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
Bank of England	17%
Bank of Ireland	17%
Bank of Scotland	17%
Bank of Wales	17%
Bank of Cyprus	17%
Bank of Greece	17%
Bank of Italy	17%
Bank of Japan	17%
Bank of Korea	17%
Bank of Spain	17%
Bank of Sweden	17%
Bank of Switzerland	17%
Bank of the Netherlands	17%
Bank of Belgium	17%
Bank of France	17%
Bank of Germany	17%
Bank of Austria	17%
Bank of Portugal	17%
Bank of Greece	17%
Bank of Italy	17%
Bank of Japan	17%
Bank of Korea	17%
Bank of Spain	17%
Bank of Sweden	17%
Bank of Switzerland	17%
Bank of the Netherlands	17%
Bank of Belgium	17%
Bank of France	17%
Bank of Germany	17%
Bank of Austria	17%
Bank of Portugal	17%

## M. J. H. Nightingale &amp; Co. Limited

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	P/E
Airsprung Group	65	—	6.7	10.3
Armstrong & Rhodes	270	—	13.8	5.1
Barton Hill	80	—	15.3	19.1
County Cars Pref	97	—	5.0	5.1
Deborah Ord	109	—	7.9	7.2
Frank Horsell	99	—	12.8	12.9
Frederick Parker	107	—	16.5	15.4
George Blair	68	—	5.2	7.6
Jackson Group	113	—	31.3	11.3
James Burrough	278	—	14.3	6.5
Robert Jenkins	220	—	0.3	4.9
Torday Limited	78	—	12.0	15.4
Twinlock Ord	49	—	2.6	5.3
Twintock 12% ULS	78	—	4.4	4.5
Unilock Holdings	185	—	12.1	6.5
Unilock Holdings New	—	—	—	—
Walter Alexander	—	—	—	—
W. S. Yeates	—	—	—	—

s prepared under provision of SSAPIS.

## Charities Official Investment Fund

15 January 1980	% Change on 16 January 1979
Some Shares	11.67p
Dividend	133.59p
Value	298.11p
Income Shares	—
Value	—
Government Securities Index	—
Share Index	—
Indices All-Share Index	—

**Highlights of the Year**

Total Assets £68.8 million

Income Shares

Dividend increased by 23.6% making 62.3% over last 5 years.

Fixed portfolio designed for the whole of a charity's capital. 71.8% invested in U.K. equities and 10.1% in foreign property at year-end.

Activity in U.K. equity holdings increased during the year.

Commercial property rental income sharply higher.

Accumulation Shares

Cash deposits and fixed interest raised to 29.3% to take advantage of high interest rates.

**Features of the Fund**

Authorised by The Charity Commissioners and available to any charity in England and Wales.

It is a Special Range investment and thus no division of a contributing charity's capital under the Trustee Investments Act is required.

Income Shares for good initial yield (8.7%) and steady income growth. Dividends paid free of U.K. Income Tax.

Accumulation shares for capital re-investment.

Copies of the Report obtainable from:

The Charities Official Investment Fund,  
7 London Wall, EC2N 1DB. (01-568 1815)

The Official Custodian for Charities,  
780 Haymarket, SW1Y 4QX. (01-214 8662)

## International

crossed from 115 cents to 320, the rise at neighbouring President Steyn was 215 cents to 280, Welkom is to pay 130 cents instead of 42.5, and Western Holdings shot up from 270 cents to 675.

But in common with other South African gold producers, Anglo is not committing itself to figures for the rest of the year. It stresses that such big increases reflect the exceptional gold price at the beginning of this year. It is not expected, however, that the average price

for the whole of 1980 will be less than for 1979.

An indication of company thinking is that the R800m new shaft at Western Ultra Deep Levels in the Transvaal has been costed at worthwhile on a gold price of \$310.

Operating profits also rose sharply at East Rand Gold and Uranium (Ergo), the project for recovering metals from waste dumps. The second full year of operation generated a fourfold profit increase to R64.9m, on which a final dividend of 85 cents is to be paid.

Most of the extra profits came from gold whose average price tripled to \$422. Uranium and sulphuric acid sales were R28.2m against R23.3m.

The Transvaal gold mines, which were not due to report dividend payments for the last quarter, also shared in the profits upsurge. At Vaal Reef, working profit doubled to R215m. Low capital expenditure of R19.4m is not to be seen as typical.

Just across the Veldt, at Western Deep Levels, the world's deepest gold mine, the average gold price received was \$675, pushing working profit up to R184m.

Elandsrand, also in the vicinity, received \$634 an ounce, but high working costs which are expected to drop, meant that profits rose from R4.7m to R12.5m.

High tax prevented South African Land and Exploration from increasing its profits by more than R300,000 to R1.3m. But exploration for a possible new goldmine adjacent to Sallies is to proceed, with new equipment ordered to examine the recently reopened Van Dyk No 5 shaft.

## Kimberlite found by US company in Botswana

From Michael Prest  
Johannesburg, April 17

Senior mining sources in Botswana have said that Falconbridge, the American mining company, has discovered significant deposits of Kimberlite, the host rock for diamonds, in a wild part of the Kalahari Desert close to the Namibian border.

Dr Chris Jennings, head of Falconbridge Exploration in Johannesburg, confirmed that his company had made several discoveries of Kimberlite in Botswana, and that it had drilled to about 300 feet in the central southern part of the country.

The news will be received with great interest by De Beers, which already has two mines operating in Botswana, at Letlham and Orapa, in a joint venture with the government.

The company has been embarrassed by its failure to participate so far in the recent Australian diamond discoveries.

Dr Jennings said he was "obviously optimistic", but admitted that the Kimberlite was much more deeply covered than at the De Beers properties. Falconbridge has discovered Kimberlite in other parts of Botswana, especially in the northeast, he added.

Diamond industry sources in Johannesburg point out that while Kimberlite pipes are fairly common, the economic incidence of diamonds is very rare.

## Bestobell

## "A Year of Achievement"

A. B. Marshall, Chairman.

	1979	1978
Sales	£106.0m	£95.5m
Profit before interest & tax	£ 8.1m	£ 5.9m
Profit before tax	£ 6.4m	£ 4.9m
Earnings per share	30.8p	27.0p
Ordinary dividend per share	11.0p	9.6p

- Sales and profit at record levels
- Trading profit increased by 38%
- Trading margin up from 6.1% to 7.6%
- Sharper focus to business structure

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary Bestobell Limited, Stoke House, Slough SL2 4HS.

Controls - Energy - Aviation - Consumer Products: Worldwide

## BRITISH AEROSPACE looks forward with confidence and a record order book

"It is pleasing to pay tribute to Lord Beswick for his outstanding contribution in setting a successful foundation for the Corporation ....."

"The Corporation can match the best in the world both as regards its all round expertise and the spread of its products ..... turnover in 1979 passed the £1,000,000,000 mark for the first time with sales in every continent ..... the workforce increased in 1979 by 3,100 to meet the expanding needs of the business ..... the Board records with appreciation the contribution of employees to the satisfactory results in 1979 during sometimes difficult and uncertain times."

Extracts from the Report of the Chairman.



Dr. A. W. Pearce, C.B.E., the new Chairman.



The Rt. Hon. Lord Beswick, P.C., J.P., retiring Chairman.

## 1979 Results

	1979	1978
Sales	£ 1,027m	£ 894m
Sales	576m	487m
Exports	3,290m	2,951m
Total order book	2,163m	2,039m
Export order book		
Profits		
Trading profit	90m	79m
Profit before tax	44m	60m
After deducting new project launching costs of	(39m)	(11m)
Net profit after tax	41m	30m
Assets		
Average assets employed	385m	308m
Trading return on average assets employed	23%	26%

Copies of the 1979 Report and Accounts can now be obtained from HM Stationery Office

**BRITISH AEROSPACE**

unequalled in its range of aerospace programmes

Weybridge, Surrey.



	Apr 16	Apr 18
Elmer Chase	42.	44.

	Apr 16	Apr 18
Elmer Chase	42.	44.

Analysis said traders appear to be taking an early gains provides opportunity to do some selling. It also said the 21.8 per cent rise in the prime rate news as an option in March housing starts rose to an annual rate of 1,040,000 was a little worse than Wall Street expected.

That news, combined with layoffs at Ford Motor Co. and General Motors announced yesterday, sent the Dow Jones Industrial

**The Wall Street and Canadian stock prices given in the table below to Wednesday.**

that the recession may prove worse than expected. Additionally, analysts point to disappointing news about corporations, including weak earnings, dividend cuts and rating cuts by debt rating services.

**Copper collapses  
on late sell-off**

a 21.8 per cent drop in United States March housing starts to close 3.3 3.20 cents lower. Volume was mated at 7,500 lots with 8 switches. While the drop was

especially vulnerable to the housing  
news. April, 88.30c; May, 89.  
89.30c; June, 90.70; July, 91.  
91.40c; Sept. 93.30-94.80c;  
97.00c; Nov. 97.70c; March, 99.  
99.50c; May, 100.30c; July, 101.60c;  
102.90c; Dec. 104.00c; Jan. 105.  
SILVER futures, taking their drive  
from the copper market, dropped  
new daily lows on news of a  
21.8 per cent fall in United States  
housing starts for March.—A  
1.320.0-1.325.0c; May, 1.435.0-1.438.0c;  
June, 1.456.0c; July, 1.465.0-1.470.0c;  
Sept., 1.518.0c; Dec., 1.530.0c;  
1.54c; Oct., March, 1.633.0c.

[illegible]



# Motoring

## Flagship in extra appeal

the penetration of Japan to the British market is even deeper but for restraints has been only on the appeal of a car of readily available spare parts and further, a category of main importance is a sports coupe as an extra appeal.

The Sapporo has undoubtedly changed two years it has been a country, its speciality has been a detail during the last two years, its speciality has been a detail during the last two years, its speciality has been a detail during the last two years.

the Sapporo has undoubtedly changed two years it has been a country, its speciality has been a detail during the last two years, its speciality has been a detail during the last two years.

the rear wheels, features disc brakes and coil-spring suspension all round (with MacPherson struts at the front and a four-link system at the rear) and has power-assisted steering among a mass of standard equipment.

Despite a power increase last year, the Sapporo's performance is still superb by the very stringent emission controls that are mandatory in Japan. Consequently the Colt car company are encouraging buyers to take their cars with an optional sport pack (marketed through their new Colt Sport offshoot) which adds just under £700 to the car's normal list price of about £5,600.

With the aid of two Weber 40 DCOE twin-choke carburetors, four four-barrel manifolds and a special exhaust system, power output at 45 bhp to a useful 140 bhp. That, it is found, reduced the previously rather lethargic 0-60 mph acceleration time to under 10 seconds, which makes the Sapporo competitive in its class.

I am assured that the top speed has been increased to 118 mph but, more important, there is a noticeable improvement in mid-range torque for safe overtaking.

The Sport package also includes a front spoiler, front and rear fog lamps, low-profile Bridgestone tyres on wider alloy wheels, a rear window wiper, shock absorbers, which seem to perform more impressively at higher speeds than over some of our deteriorating urban roads.

A light clutch and positive gear-lever movements encourage sensible use of the gearbox. A modest 17 per cent step-up from direct-drive fourth into the fifth gear the latter can be usefully employed within 40 mph limits,

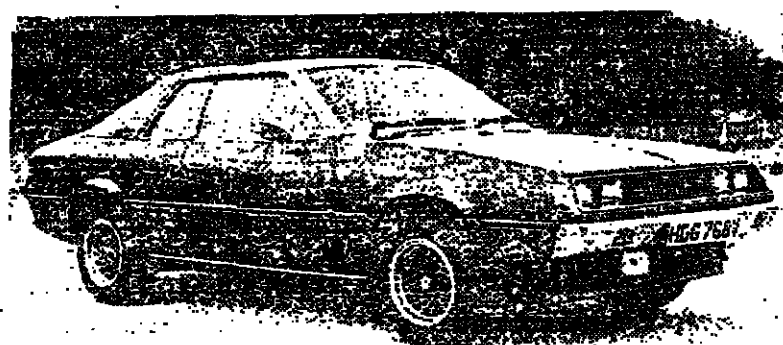
and at times in 30 mph areas, as an aid to economy, a factor that no doubt contributes to its overall consumption of more than 26 mpg during the test period.

Recirculating-ball steering lacks the precision of a rack-and-pinion mechanism; so the Sapporo earns only average marks in that respect, although on the plus side the servo makes light work of sudden changes of direction. The brakes required quite a modest pedal effort for all normal use, and the wide tyre treads were a useful aid to stability when I simulated some panic stops.

The test car was equipped with the optional (at £150) electrically operated door windows, the excellent seal of which contributed to a commendably low noise level in the car.

As is the case with so many Japanese cars, interior equipment is very comprehensive, in this instance the standard specification including such things as adjustable steering, a multitude of warning lights, locking fuel-filler cap, illuminated ashtray, a roof panel fitted with a digital clock and interior lamps, rear-compartment heating, interior boot release and a radio with its antenna housed in a body pillar, as well as three-spoke wheels, halogen headlamps, tinted glass and laminated screen.

Six-dial instrumentation is arranged in a neat line with good vision through a single-spoke steering wheel; there is generous front seat adjustment (though the cushions might benefit from a little more bolstering and improved modulation is tolerable (though not, perhaps, for adults on very long journeys); and the interior decor of the car is pleasantly carried out in light shades, the effect marred only by some unnecessary name-badging on the doors.



The Colt Sapporo 2000 GSR: favourable comments

The Sapporo is a conventional coupe rather than a hatchback, offering a totally enclosed luggage compartment of generous length and width but shallow depth, and with a somewhat restricted opening ahead of a prominent sill.

Comment on a car's appearance must always be subjective, but the test car, which was fitted with a vinyl roof covering which forms part of an Executive package, drew a number of favourable comments during the week it was in my possession.

As fewer than 1,200 Sapporos found their way on to the United Kingdom market last year, the car has a certain rarity value, which many find attractive. For those who prefer it, the Sapporo is also available with automatic transmission, and in common with all other Colts it qualifies for a 50 per cent insurance scheme which offers certain benefits to drivers over 25 years of age.

As my colleague, Peter Waymark, commented last week, there

are many factors that should be considered before purchasing a new car; but I would suggest that high among those that may draw a potential buyer to a Sapporo is that it is a car which combines a degree of flair and exclusivity with the distinct practical advantage that so many of its mechanical components are common to other Colts; models, and therefore likely to be readily available, should the need arise, throughout the dealership network.

### Americans think small

A recent business trip to the United States, involving days in the Mid-West and on the West Coast, was my first for two years, a long enough period for me to expect (and discover) some significant changes on the automotive scene. I was particularly interested to see the extent to which the new car buyer had responded to the American Government's exhortations to "think small".

Whereas in the immediate aftermath of the 1973 energy crisis utterances from the White House had rendered the standard-size American car virtually unsaleable overnight, only for it to return to favour in a matter of months, this time it looks as though the message has really got home.

Already there are so many American-built, European-size cars to be seen in main traffic centres (and I am thinking in particular of San Francisco and Los Angeles) that it is the traditional "Detroit battleships" which are beginning to look the odd men out, rather than the imports, which of course began the reeducation of the American driver.

Massive investment has been necessary by the United States car industry to rush through new ranges of smaller cars (some of which are yet to emerge from the production pipelines). That will be recouped only by sustained high-volume sales, encouraged by expensive marketing programmes which doubtless will urge the buyer to load his smaller car with options, thereby restoring the industry's per-unit profit margin to a tolerable level.

American Motors have long supported the smaller-car movement (they would have disappeared long ago had they not done so); troubled Chrysler have used their links with Mitsubishi to provide themselves with some useful contenders; and Ford, with their Mustangs, Capris and Granadas (the last two are completely different cars from their European counterparts), have also been generating some much-needed showroom traffic to compensate for the markedly diminished interest in their larger models.

But it seems to have taken the

giant General Motors Corporation to provide the seal of approval for the Detroit-built small car. The drastic scaling down of the Cadillac was a bold move which stimulated a vast re-evaluation of the car's role in the four new axes in GM's pack. They are the so-called X-cars, which are being built in Buick, Chevrolet, Oldsmobile and Pontiac variations, which the Chevrolet Citation has recently been named the Motor Trend 1980 Car of the Year.

With a choice of body styles and of either a 2.5-litre, four cylinder or a 2.8-litre, V-6 engine and overall dimensions that are a little less than those of, for example, a Rover 2300/2600/3500, the X-cars typify Detroit's wholesale investment in the European-sized car.

However, if such cars were to have a major and lasting place in the United States industry's catalogue, it was essential that these models, representing as they do such a vast financial commitment, should be enthusiastically received in the market place.

From what I saw of them on the highways of Minnesota, Wisconsin and California their level of acceptance must already have prompted signs of relief, not only in GM's boardroom but also in those of their rivals, whose similarly conceived model ranges have yet to be announced.

It may still be too early to pronounce the giant-size Detroit car dead, but happily the days of the traditional gas-guzzling space-consuming monster can be numbered with some confidence. After all, when even Cadillacs come in smaller packages, who needs to think big?

John Blunsden

## Vehicle lease

FROM ONLY 3 MONTHS' ADVANCED RENTAL

make a car supplied at highly competitive rates for self-employed persons and companies only

Examples	Initial	Followed by 21 monthly payments of	Initial	Followed by 21 monthly payments of
Peo N	£234.00	£25.50	£207.57	£25.18
Peo N	£234.00	£25.50	£207.57	£25.18
Peo N	£234.00	£25.50	£207.57	£25.18
Peo N	£234.00	£25.50	£207.57	£25.18
Peo N	£234.00	£25.50	£207.57	£25.18
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Peo N	£234.00	£25.50	£207.57	£25.18
Peo N	£234.00	£25.50	£207.57	£25.18
Peo N	£234.00	£25.50	£207.57	£25.18

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